

iSIMPATHY Shared Learning Model

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Background and objective

iSIMPATHY was an EU funded project delivering 6,481 person-centred medicine reviews and training to 212 healthcare professionals in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Republic of Ireland.¹ Project pharmacists completed an initial training programme and quality assurance process. A model for shared learning and peer support was needed to support the pharmacists throughout the project.

Method

A shared learning model was developed with 4 components:

- Education delivered by a clinical expert, including Q&A and discussion
- Case presentation delivered by a project pharmacist (including past medical history, reconciled medicine list, completed 7-STEPS medicine review, clinical interventions and medicines appropriateness index)
- Group case-based discussion
- Sharing challenges and barriers and discussion to address and identify solutions

The model was delivered in collaboration with Project ECHO NI² at monthly virtual sessions, each of 90 minutes duration (Fig 1). Resources, including the presentations and session recordings, were uploaded on Moodle for access retrospectively. The project team participated in curriculum development to agree topics for the education component. Participants were surveyed at the end of both Years 1 and 2 to evaluate the model.

Results

A total of 13 sessions were delivered over 2 years. The education topics and the corresponding educator are presented in Table 1. The average number of participants in Year 1 was 16 with 71% attending >7 sessions. At the end of Year 1, 86% rated the education component high to very high quality, 71% agreed or strongly agreed that participation helped them feel more supported in their role and 86% would like to participate in this network again.

At the end of Year 2, 86% respondents had applied their learning in practice, 88% had increased confidence delivering reviews and 63% agreed the network created a community of support. All participants responded that case based discussion was an impactful way of learning.

Year 1

- 86%** rated the education presentation high to very high quality
- 71%** agreed / strongly agreed participation helped them feel more supported
- 86%** would like to participate in this network again
- 100%** would recommend the model to others as a useful learning tool

Year 2

- 100%** agreed case-based discussion was an impactful way of learning
- 86%** had applied their learning in practice
- 88%** had increased confidence in delivering reviews
- 63%** agreed the network provided a community of support

Fig 1: Shared Learning Session (duration 90 minutes)

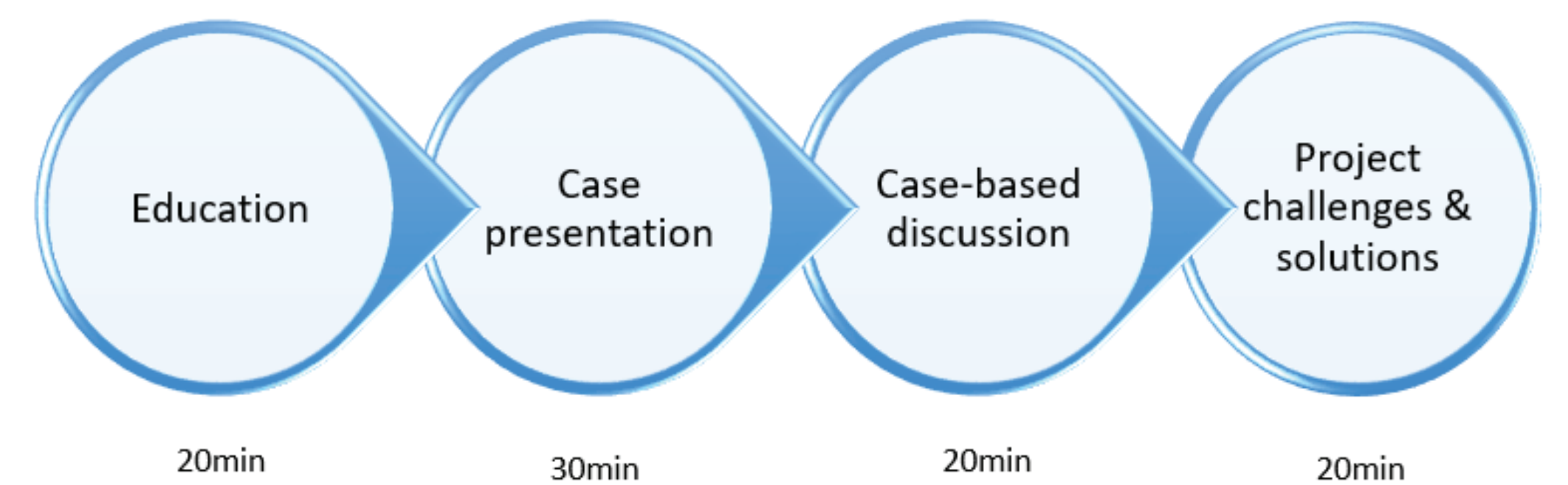
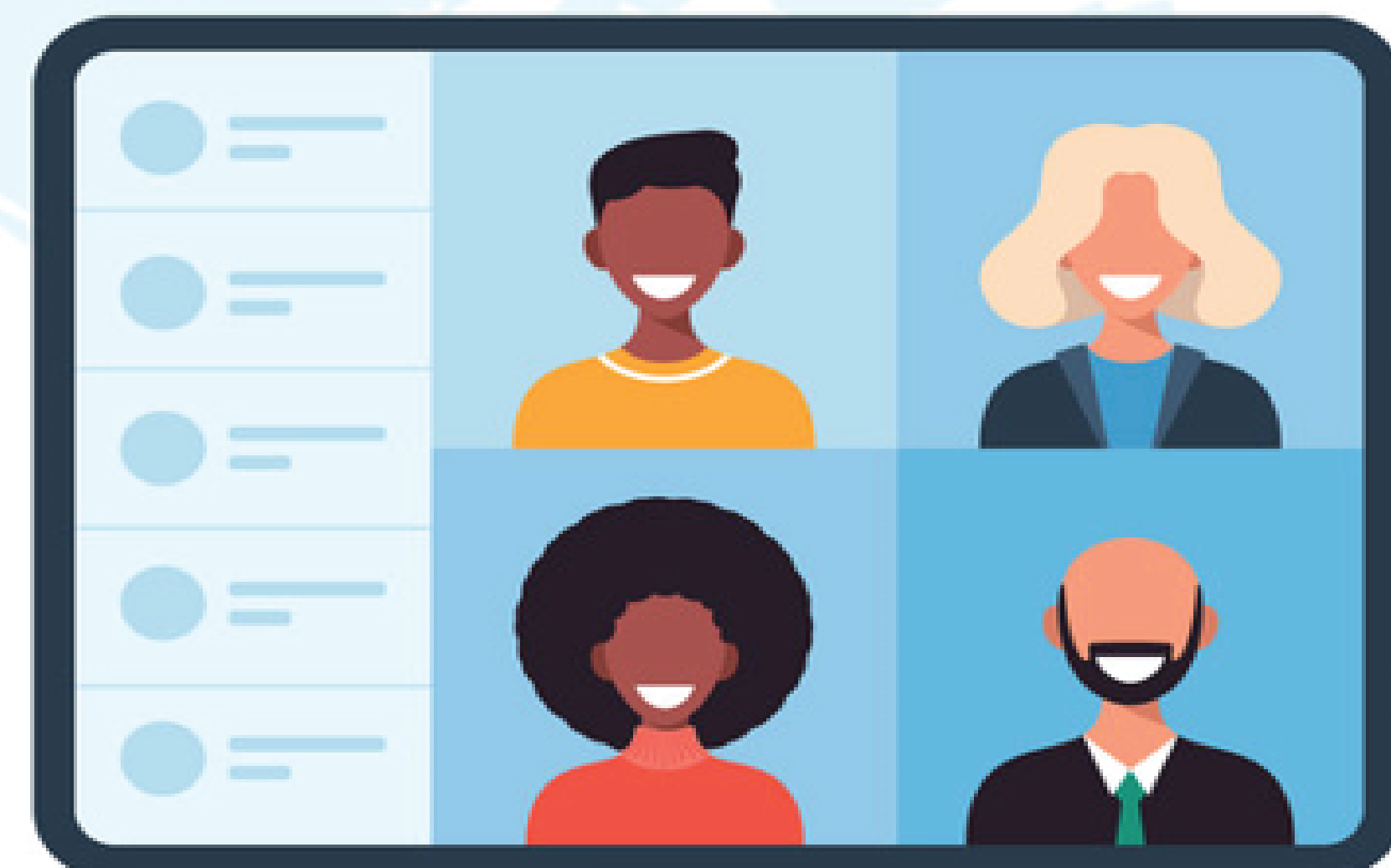


Table 1: Education curriculum

Session	Education Topic	Educator
YEAR 1		
1	Numbers needed to treat	Consultant Geriatrician
2	Skills and tools to manage difficult conversations	Clinical Psychologist
3	Frailty	Consultant Geriatrician
4	A day in the life of the iSIMPATHY pharmacist	Project Pharmacist
5	Tapering and stopping antidepressants	Mental Health Pharmacist
6	Focus on Eadon	Lead Pharmacist
7	Maximising the impact of the consultation	General Practitioner
8	Parkinson's Disease	Consultant Geriatrician
YEAR 2		
1	Antipsychotic drugs	Mental Health Pharmacist
2	Treatment of anxiety and depression	Mental Health Pharmacist
3	Safe prescribing of opioids in older people	Consultant Pharmacist
4	Christmas cheer	N/A
5	Presenting data effectively	Consultant in Acute Medicine

Having ECHO during a time when face to face contact was not possible was invaluable

Project Pharmacist



Conclusion

The iSIMPATHY virtual shared learning model was successfully developed and delivered and was well received by participants. The model is suitable for both cross-sector and cross-border multi-disciplinary healthcare professionals to support virtual shared learning and peer support in the roll out of structured medicine reviews.

References

1. <https://www.isimpathy.eu/>
2. <https://echonorthernireland.co.uk/project-echo-ni/>

