



# **Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC)**

## **Annual Report**

2025 – 2026



## **MEDICINES OPTIMISATION INNOVATION CENTRE (MOIC)**

### **Annual Report 2025 / 2026**

#### **Context**

The Regional Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC) aims to work towards better patient outcomes by initiating, developing and sharing best practice with regards to medicines use. This is achieved via the following primary activities:

1. Developing a systematic approach to finding and testing solutions for Health and Social Care (HSC).
2. Combining strengths in clinical pharmacy, pharmacy practice, research and service development, with technology and business acumen.
3. (a) Developing a medicines optimisation network, linking with the HSC and other life science networks and innovation centres in Northern Ireland (NI) and Europe.  
(b) Support knowledge sharing both with the HSC and wider networks and the development of collaborative working partnerships and joint working arrangements between participants.

#### **MOIC Work streams**

In addition, to work around infrastructure, communications and marketing, MOIC activity is split across four work streams, namely to:

- Focus on the needs of patients and the NI population.
- Accelerate the adoption of innovation into practice to improve clinical outcomes and efficiency.
- Build a culture of partnership and collaboration.
- Make a meaningful contribution to the NI economy.

This report will describe the key achievements in these areas during 2025/2026.



## **Staff, Infrastructure, Communications and Marketing**

A team of Programme Managers are key to the functioning of MOIC. During the year, there were no changes to the Programme Management team.

After many years of working in the HSC, including over a decade dedicated to establishing and managing MOIC, Professor Michael Scott has announced his retirement. A recruitment exercise for his successor has commenced.

MOIC benefits from the skills of a Communications Manager (0.6WTE). The post holder has continued to work to review and upgrade both the MOIC website and the use of social media channels. In addition, regular newsletters are being produced.

Where possible, the MOIC team have attended conferences and workshops to assist with the promotion of MOIC. In addition, results from specific projects have been disseminated through a variety of means including: the publication of papers in academic journals; attendance and presentations at a range of conferences; publication on websites; and via social media. A list of publications, reports and presentations is included in Annex A.

## **Focus on needs of patients and the NI population**

Staff in MOIC have continued to work on a range of projects aimed at optimising medicines use and on maximising skill mix in order to ensure the best possible outcomes from medicines use.

In primary care, we continue to work with the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) to evaluate new services that are being developed. Details of these evaluations are below:

- Within Northern Ireland, the SPPG have been scoping and establishing new models of prescribing by non-medical prescribers. MOIC led in the evaluation of projects in the areas of physiotherapy, heart failure, dietetics and mental health. During the reporting period, a paper on the physiotherapy component was published. More recently, a task and finish group was established to oversee a

pathfinder project to permit the prescribing of palliative care medicines by Foyle Hospice staff in the community using HS21 prescription forms. MOIC were members of the task and finish group and led on the evaluation of this work. A final report on the project was prepared and presented at a celebration event in June 2025. Given the positive results from this pilot, work is now being undertaken to scale and spread this to other Hospices in NI. A paper on the pilot service has been accepted for publication.

- The SPPG have commissioned a service for the provision of emergency hormonal contraception through community pharmacy. Initially, MOIC was to evaluate user satisfaction with this initiative via online service user questionnaires. However, MOIC was subsequently asked to conduct a full evaluation of the service to include an analysis of a comprehensive sample of consultation forms for the service. A final report on this service was submitted to SPPG during the reporting period.
- In January 2025, the SPPG commenced a pilot of a Pharmacy First service for the treatment of shingles. MOIC have been working with the SPPG on the evaluation of this pilot. Following the completion of MOIC information governance procedures, consultation forms for the service were received for analysis. Surveys have been sent to community pharmacies, GPs and Out of Hours services to explore their feedback on the initiative. Surveys will close in April 2026 after which data analysis will be completed and an evaluation report produced.
- MOIC has been engaged by DH to support an evaluation of the current community pharmacy based Stop Smoking Service across NI. The evaluation is focussing on gathering pharmacy staff and service user feedback which will be used to co-design and co-produce an updated service model to meet the needs of the NI population and community pharmacy. This work began in July 2025, surveys were deployed to community pharmacies in January 2026 and service users in February 2026. The surveys were closed at the end of March 2026.

As part of planning for winter 2025/26, the Chief Medical Officer and Chief Nursing Officer led a series of “Big Discussion” workshops with stakeholders from across Health and Social Care (HSC) which aimed to consider system-wide learning from the experiences of last winter and to explore actionable steps that could be taken to improve system-wide flow and patient outcomes. These discussions highlighted a

number of priority areas, with particular emphasis on improving care pathways for older people, frailty, and community-based alternatives to hospital care. As a follow-up to these workshops, senior pharmacy leaders from across all pharmacy sectors were invited to participate in a pharmacy specific “Big Discussion” workshop. This was held in August 2025 to define and strengthen the integrated pharmacy contribution to the whole-system flow plan for winter 2025/26 by:

- Describing how pharmacy teams across all sectors will contribute to the patient pathway in preventing and managing medication-related issues among older people, individuals living with frailty, and care home residents. This includes areas such as falls, fractures, polypharmacy, and end-of-life care.
- Identifying opportunities for improvement in advance of winter 2025/26, within existing resources, and, where appropriate, outlining longer-term service development proposals to be progressed subject to the availability of future resources.

MOIC led on the organisation and facilitation of this workshop and produced a report on the findings. This report identified a number of areas of good practice being delivered across NI, however, in many cases good practice is not universally available. For each area some suggestions for improvement were made by workshop participants. Lead group/organisation(s) have been identified in the report and have been tasked with considering each area of practice to inform the development of a regional action plan outlining how improvements can be made.

During the year, MOIC worked with Trust colleagues on a number of initiatives which aimed to improve care including:

- Three Trusts (NHSCT, WHSCT, SHSCT) have been given funding to develop a diabetes community care model. MOIC are working with the regional Diabetes Inpatient Pharmacist group in order to ensure that appropriate evidence which demonstrates the value of such a pharmacy service is gathered.
- MOIC provided advice and support in the development of a project focusing on medication review for those in HMP Maghaberry. This project aimed to deliver patient-led medication reviews to 80 patients following methodology used in the iSIMPATHEY project. Advice was provided by MOIC on the initial design and planning for the project, governance requirements, and suitability and use of models for data

collection. Further support was provided as required when the project progressed. Medication reviews were conducted with 85 patients delivering 242 interventions, 111 of which were significant or very significant. Positive feedback was provided by both patients and prison staff.

MOIC agree an annual business plan with DH. A key role for MOIC under this plan is to provide expertise and advice on a range of policy issues under development. During the year MOIC contributed to a number of areas related to workforce development within pharmacy including:

- **Advanced Practice Pharmacist Task and Finish Group:** MOIC was a partner in the Northern Ireland Advanced Practice Pharmacist Task and Finish Group which produced a report 'A Guide to Developing the Role of Advanced Practice Pharmacists in Northern Ireland' that was published by the Department of Health in November 2025. Through the publication of the paper the Department of Health is formally adopting a new pathway to achieve Advanced Practice Pharmacist qualification in Northern Ireland through credentialling against the RPS Core Advanced Pharmacist Curriculum. The paper contains key actions to support development and implementation in the period up to April 2030.
- **Consultant pharmacists:** A key component of pharmacy workforce development is ensuring that research skills are embedded and developed within the pharmacy workforce. MOIC are providing expert mentorship to a number of pharmacists who are completing portfolios of evidence with a view to becoming Consultant Pharmacists in the future. MOIC are continuing to work with colleagues at DH and NI Centre for Postgraduate Learning and Development (NICPLD) on the development of consultant pharmacist roles in Northern Ireland. A MOIC Programme Manager has been appointed to a new position at the Royal College of Pharmacy as credentialing expert in Northern Ireland and is due to take up the role in April 2026.
- **Regional Journal Club:** A key component of pharmacy workforce development is ensuring that research skills are embedded and developed within the pharmacy workforce. During Autumn 2025, MOIC planned and delivered a regional journal club along with colleagues in NICPLD. This journal club was piloted as part of the NICPLD autumn programme and was delivered over 3 sessions.



At the start of the pandemic, MOIC worked closely with the Business Services Organisation Procurement and Logistics Service (BSO PaLS) and became the lead for technical assessment of offers of personal protective equipment (PPE) regionally. A business case for recurrent funding (led by BSO PaLS) was approved and a Senior Pharmacist for PPE Regulation and Innovation was appointed and has taken up post. Following on from the tripartite process developed and refined during the Covid-19 pandemic, MOIC continue to lead on technical assessments of PPE items and some medical devices submitted as HSCNI regional contract tender bids. This collaboration between BSOPaLS, IPC and MOIC extends to post receipt verification checks on items delivered via successful contractors by MOIC. Compliance of technical documentation with EU regulations, on which NI diverge from GB, is a core element of MOIC's work in this area along with assisting BSOPaLS with any post market placement queries that may arise in relation to locally developed / manufactured PPE items. MOIC continue to keep up to date with changing regulatory roll out and implementation dates and undertake relevant training with appropriate providers. MOIC, in conjunction with NHSCT IPC and BSOPaLS, have recently completed a piece of work on Emergency Preparedness relating to the regional availability of suitable High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) PPE ensemble components. NHSCT IPC colleagues shared this work with the national HCID network who subsequently successfully used and endorsed NI HCID items at a recent Belfast based training event. Following this external training, local training on the use of these items will roll out across Trusts.

The 'Pharmacy Schools Programme' is a comprehensive structured educational programme covering health literacy, self-care, medication safety and the role of the pharmacist in supporting these areas. This programme was developed by Belfast Healthy Cities working in collaboration with the Department of Health and partners in education and the third sector. It has been successfully delivered in primary schools across Northern Ireland since it was launched in 2021. MOIC have supported the evaluation of the primary level programme, which has made several recommendations for the further development in this area. Belfast Healthy Cities are currently working with the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) to develop the next phase of the programme for delivery in post-primary schools and MOIC are part of an advisory group contributing to this development. MOIC are advising on evaluation aspects and will be in a position to assess acceptability of the programme to education providers. Other members of the advisory group are from an

education background and will advise on the assessment of the impact of educational interventions in children.

### **Accelerate the adoption of innovation into practice to improve clinical outcomes and efficiency**

During the year, the DH launched the *Valuing Medicines – a Strategy for the Sustainable Use of Medicines in Northern Ireland* (VMS). This strategy recognises that there are multiple factors leading to an increasing spend on medicines within Northern Ireland including expensive new medicines & technologies and the ageing population. Never the less, steps must be taken to ensure that medicines use is sustainable. Under the VMS a range of themes are outlined in order to achieve this goal. Including to: *Drive improvement through data, technology, research and innovation (Theme 4)*. In order to assist with this, the MOIC Board approved funding to permit the appointment of a senior business analyst post based within the Analytics & Insight Team at the HSC Data Institute (HSCDI). The post-holder commenced work in this role in January 2026 and since then has focused on an exploratory analysis of medicines related data, with particular emphasis on insights derived from encompass (regional secondary care electronic patient record system using Epic software). They will continue to work closely with pharmacy staff across the Encompass programme to build a comprehensive understanding of the data, tools, and analytical opportunities available to support medicines related reporting. The post-holder is engaged in the VMS Steering Group and will act as the Lead for the Digital Medicines Workstream supporting Theme 4 of the VMS, which is scheduled to commence in April 2026. As part of this, an implementation plan is to be developed for the workstream that reflects stakeholder needs and delivers on the data focused recommendations set out within the VMS. In early 2026, the MOIC agreed some further temporary support for this work which was in place until the end of March 2026.

As in previous years, MOIC have continued to work with range of commercial companies regarding projects which aim to improve clinical outcomes and efficiency. These include:

- A pharmacist led heart failure clinic, supported by Novartis, began in NHSCT in November 2025. This project aims to reduce the waiting time for patients to be initially

seen following discharge from hospital with a diagnosis of heart failure to meet the European Society of Cardiology timescale of two weeks, which are currently not being met. MOIC is undertaking a service evaluation of this project which will run for 12 months and has provided initial support around data collection and governance.

- MOIC have been working with a number of colleagues across NI in the area of cardiovascular disease. Funding was obtained from AstraZeneca to pilot the establishment of a cardiometabolic pharmacy service within the WHSCT. A cardiometabolic pharmacist conducted outpatient reviews for those at risk of cardiometabolic diseases. These reviews aimed to increase adherence to medicines that prevent and delay disease progression. During the year, this work was accepted for publication.
- MOIC hosted two participants under the NI Research Professionals Network Organisational Insight Exchange Programme Pilot. The participants were from Momentum One Zero and Altomics Datamation. This programme was designed to enable research and innovation professionals from NI to interact with colleagues from different organisations and sectors. It aims to: promote better awareness of the sector; better understanding of the context research and innovation professionals work in; foster knowledge exchange and good practice sharing; and, support career development and mobility within the NI research and innovation sector. This pilot programme completed at the end of June 2025 and a feedback meeting was held in July 2025. MOIC was the focus of a Case Study highlighting the host experience. Further to this, MOIC collaborated with Altomics Datamation to submit an application to the AI in Healthcare programme.

The Armagh Dungannon GP Federation have successfully trialled a diagnostic hub for respiratory illness. This model has permitted the diagnosis of common respiratory illness by a respiratory physiologist in a primary care setting without the need for referral to secondary care. The expansion of this model to other areas would meet the aims of the proposed Neighbourhood Model of care and would assist with waiting list management for respiratory disease. Discussions with a wide range of stakeholders have been held with a view to extending this model to the SHSCT area and subsequently across Northern Ireland. Stakeholders include colleagues from AstraZeneca who would be willing to test this concept as a joint industry/HSC project.

### **Build a culture of partnership and collaboration**

MOIC continue to work with a range of collaborators from across the world. Activity includes:

- Collaborating in order to apply for large funding grants.
- Attending conferences and events in order to promote MOIC.
- Contributing to the organisation of conferences.
- Building international partnerships to aid knowledge translation and hosting.

The iSIMPATY project was a collaboration between the Scottish Government, the Health Services Executive (HSE) in Ireland and MOIC. Using Interreg funding, the project trialled the use of pharmacy led medicine use reviews in all three jurisdictions. The iSIMPATY project is complete, however, during the reporting period, a full paper was published <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/15/11/e102020>. The findings from the iSIMPATY project were used in the development of some new grant applications (details below). In addition, MOIC have been working with the Southern AIPB in a pilot of the use of the iSIMPATY medication review model in moderately frail patients in a general practice setting. MOIC are advising on project methodology and are providing training on the Seven Steps model.

At regional level, the Seven Steps methodology used in the iSIMPATY project has now been accepted as the gold standard model for medication review. MOIC have had discussions with NICPLD regarding training in this area.

The team at MOIC have worked with a range of partners on new grant applications:

- MOIC worked with colleagues in QUB, Ireland and the US to develop a grant application to the US-Ireland Partnership Grant scheme. The application focuses on medicines optimisation interventions made at transitions of care. Intention to submit paperwork was sent to HSC R&D Division in Northern Ireland and Science Foundation Ireland for their consideration. Following their approval a full application was submitted to the National Institutes for Health (NIH) in the USA. Initial feedback was received from NIH and a revised application was sent back to NIH for consideration in November 2025. The outcome of the grant is expected April 2026.

- MOIC was invited by colleagues in UU to participate in a UKRI Funding opportunity -Transdisciplinary research to tackle antimicrobial resistance. The submission is focused on a One Health Approach to antibiotic use, prescribing patterns and environmental concentrations across borders and developing countries. The “Notification of Intent” to submit received positive feedback and a full application was submitted on 23<sup>rd</sup> September. The outcome of the grant is expected in April 2026.
- MOIC were engaged in three separate consortia to prepare submissions to the Horizon funding calls.
  - SHEMATTERS aimed to transform the understanding, diagnosis, and management of high-burden under-researched health conditions that disproportionately affect women, such as: CVD, menopause-related complications, endometriosis, chronic pelvic pain, and chronic fatigue; through multidisciplinary research, AI-driven tools, and the co-creation of equitable clinical and policy solutions.
  - CARE4AGE focused on older adults with multi-morbidity driven by CVD and frailty. The project aimed to create a virtual assistant to support clinicians and patients.
  - TWIN -SEPSIS aimed to address the challenges posed by sepsis by developing an AI-driven digital twin for sepsis patients that enables rapid detection, AMR profiling, and personalized treatment support.

Unfortunately, despite positive feedback, these applications were not successful. MOIC is continuing to work with the consortia to consider the feedback and to make revised applications.

- MOIC worked with colleagues from the SHSCT to submit an expression of interest to the Vivensa Foundation in response to a call for interventions aimed towards older adults in underserved communities. The proposed work was to progress and scale the successful Heart Failure Virtual Clinic service in NI. Unfortunately, the application was unsuccessful.
- MOIC is engaging with colleagues within SPPG and DH to support an Innovate UK application as part of the Obesity Pathway Innovation Programme (OPIP). A full application was submitted in November 2025 and was successful. MOIC will lead on the evaluation of the pharmacy aspects of this programme.



The WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge on medicines safety aims to reduce medicines related harm by 50% over a five-year period. At a regional level MOIC sit on the Transforming Medicines Safety Advisory Group. Under this initiative a new Regional Improvement Programme will focus on Time-Critical Medicines (delayed and omitted doses). MOIC will lead on the evaluation of this programme and are members of the Expert Panel Advisory Group.

MOIC contributed to the organisation of the first All-Island Medicines Safety Conference. This event was held in Dublin in November 2024. Planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> event, to be held in Belfast in 2026 has started. To date funding has been secured from the Health Research Board in Dublin and the HSC R&D Division in Northern Ireland. A scientific committee has been formed to oversee the conference content.

Also linked to the WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge, MOIC is continuing to work with colleagues in the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) to consider a learning collaborative approach to medicines safety. Discussions are progressing with stakeholders in Poland and Estonia with regards to establishing a change project related to medicines optimisation. Funding options, including those with industry partners, continue to be explored. An application to present at the IHI International Forum in May 25 was submitted. This was accepted as a poster presentation, however the decision was taken to withdraw from this conference due to other commitments. In addition, this work was presented at the international Healthcare Systems Ergonomics and Patient Safety (HEPS) Conference in Dublin (June 2025).

Under this programme of work, discussions have been held with colleagues in DH, SPPG and the WHO with a view to Northern Ireland establishing a WHO collaborating centre for medicines safety.

EU COST Actions (Co-operation in Science and Technology) are interdisciplinary research networks which bring researchers and innovators together to explore a topic of interest. MOIC continue to be involved with a number of collaborations pursuing COST actions:

- Medicines safety and medicines optimisation can be impacted by medication adherence. MOIC were members of the ENABLE COST Action (European Network to Advance Best practices & technology) on medication adherence. Following completion of the ENABLE Adherence COST Action, an ENABLE Network has been formally established with a number of multidisciplinary stakeholders across Europe. A Cooperation Framework Agreement has been completed with MOIC as a founding Partner.
- MOIC partnered with colleagues across Europe to submit a COST Action application in October 2025 entitled “*Improving healthcare practices for eco-directed use of human medicines across Europe*” (EcoMeds4U), led by the University of Highlands and Islands, Scotland. The outcome of the submission is expected in May 2026. The Action will establish a collaborative, cross-sectoral network of interdisciplinary researchers and stakeholders including healthcare professionals, environmental experts, regulators, patients, and public representatives to work towards a harmonised framework advancing environmentally informed “eco-directed” use of human medicines in Europe. It will focus specifically on pharmaceutical pollution in the water environment. The group is continuing to meet to consider further collaboration opportunities.
- MOIC is contributing to discussions regarding a potential COST Action, focusing on Medicines Optimisation/Safety, with a European collaboration led by University of the Arctic in Norway.

MOIC are keen supporters of knowledge translation and this has been supported by a hosting programme. During and following Covid-19 hosting was not possible due to clinical pressures, however, during the year 2 hosting visits were undertaken:

- Mikas Glatkauskas is a PhD student at the University of Oslo and is undertaking work to explore the innovation of a sustainable healthcare service for patients with multiple long-term conditions. Mikas spent four weeks in NI during May/June 2025 as part of his studies. At the end of his visit, he presented at the Healthcare Systems Ergonomics and Patient Safety (HEPS) Conference in Dublin, June 2025 where he won the best poster prize.
- MOIC hosted a high level delegation from ATS Bergamo in Italy on a shared learning visit to Northern Ireland in December 2025. The focus was medicines optimisation



and iSIMPATY medicine reviews in Primary Care. A MOU is currently being considered.

Knowledge translation is also supported via range of international partnerships and collaborations including:

### **Poland**

- Work has continued under the MOU between MOIC and the Polish Society of Clinical Pharmacy in order to share learning and drive enhanced pharmacy services throughout Europe.
- The Ministry of Health in Poland has established a number of working groups to progress medicines optimisation in the country. MOIC is working with colleagues in Wroclaw to assist in delivering a medicines optimisation pilot in the hospital setting. A PhD project has now been completed and it is anticipated the findings from this project will support the evidence base in the Polish context to help inform wider roll out. This work was presented at the European Association of Hospital Pharmacists Symposium in March 2026 and was shortlisted for the oral communication prize.
- A Parliamentary Team established in Poland to tackle medicines adherence has noted its intention to invite MOIC to share best practice to inform this work
- MOIC delivered a plenary session at the Polish Society of Clinical Pharmacy Conference which was held in Wroclaw in September 2025.

### **Commonwealth Pharmacists Association**

- MOIC is linking with the Commonwealth Pharmacists' Association to consider collaboration opportunities to share learning and support the introduction and evaluation of clinical pharmacy and antimicrobial stewardship activities in Commonwealth countries. A MOU was agreed and has now been launched. This work was on hold due to workload pressures within CPA.

### **Malta**

- A delegation from Northern Ireland participated in a shared learning visit to Malta in May 2025. The visit explored potential collaborative opportunities and a MOU between MOIC and University of Malta was signed during the visit.

## **Ethiopia**

- MOIC has had discussions with the College of Health and Medical Sciences, Haramaya University in Ethiopia focusing on medicines optimisation and a MOU was signed in November 2025.

## **PhD students**

- Sonja Guntschnig from Austria first visited the NHSCOT under the hosting programme in 2019. Based on her learning she is now developing AMS programmes within her hospital and region. Linked to this, she is undertaking a PhD under the supervision and mentorship of UU and MOIC. Sonja continues to present initial findings at relevant conferences e.g. European Society of Clinical Pharmacy. A paper considering her initial work on clinical services evaluation has been published in the European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy. Sonja is continuing to progress the scale and spread of her work in Austria.
- Anita Tula, is a PhD student based at the University of Tartu in Estonia. She is examining the area of medicines use reviews with a focus on older people and polypharmacy in community pharmacy settings.
- MOIC is working with two PhD students at the University of Oslo. The first is exploring the co-design of seamless person-centered interventions to optimise medication use across healthcare levels and is being undertaken by Malin O. Syversen. As noted above, Mikas Glatkauskas is undertaking work to explore the innovation of a sustainable healthcare service for patients with multiple long-term conditions.

MOIC have continued to lead on the UK and Ireland Antimicrobial Stewardship Collaboration. This is an informal network of participants from UK and Ireland with an interest in Antimicrobial Resistance and Stewardship. The purpose is to complement existing groups and explore areas of mutual interest, funding, small to medium-sized projects and to share learning and work collaboratively to mutually benefit each jurisdiction. During the year, terms of reference were agreed and membership has been refreshed to include representatives from the UK Health Security Agency.

In addition to the conferences described above, MOIC led the organisation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> All-Ireland Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference. The highly successful conference was

held for the first time in Belfast in October 2025 and was attended by multidisciplinary healthcare professionals, patients, academics and industry. It is anticipated that this will be an annual event, with the 4<sup>th</sup> All-Ireland Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference expected in Autumn 2026.

### **Make a meaningful contribution to the NI economy**

MOIC are the HSC lead in the Health and Social Care Industry Partnership (HSCIP). The partnership aims to deliver 'triple win' benefits to patients, the service and the economy through more rapid and consistent patient access to innovation, more effective use of HSC resources and increased cross-sector research collaboration. Under this partnership, work has been undertaken regionally in the area of heart failure. A call in the area of heart failure was issued to industry partners, and AstraZeneca was selected as the commercial partner for a project which commenced in September 2023. A leadership group and 3 task and finish groups were established to address the following priority areas:

- Early Identification and Referral Pathway
- Triage and Patient Prioritisation Pathway
- Optimal Treatment and Discharge Pathway

Outputs from these Task and Finish groups included modelling a future state pathway for heart failure services in NI, according to clinical guidelines and gold standards of heart failure care. Workshops were held with clinical representatives from each HSC Trust to map the current heart failure pathway and identify variance/bottle-necks in the system. Following this work, the NI Regional HF Transformation Project Report made recommendations which are being used to inform a business case for funding by SPPG and work has commenced on an implementation plan. MOIC have produced a final report relating to this project.

MOIC continue to work, under a MOU, with the Cluster Saude de Galicia (CSG). Building on the Learning Expedition to Galicia, discussions have been taken forward with a range of CSG partners, including companies, universities and healthcare

professionals on a range of areas. Work is continuing with SMEs in relation to the use of reusable drapes and gowns coupled with the appropriate tags and funding for this work is being sought. Further discussions have been held with a SME regarding wastewater management in the hospital setting with a focus on the removal of pharmaceuticals from the water before it enters the sewerage system. Other discussions have been taking place regarding the broader circular economy with a SME and Health Estates. Progression of these projects will depend on suitable funding being identified.

Peace Plus is a funding programme which supports peace and prosperity across NI and the border counties of Ireland. The iMPROVE (Innovation in person-centred Medication Prescribing and Review for Optimal Value and Efficacy) project was funded under this scheme and commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025. iMPROVE is a €10.1m project running for four years within rural and urban communities of NI (Counties Derry/Londonderry and Tyrone), Republic of Ireland (Counties Donegal and Sligo) and Scotland (Tayside). MOIC are receiving Euro 313k). The goal is to help 10,000 people who live with ongoing health conditions by making their medication safer and more effective. The project is using a personalised approach to healthcare, including pharmacogenomics, that focuses on each person's unique needs.

A MOU between MOIC and Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) was formally launched and signed at an event hosted by Minister Nesbitt at Stormont in May 2025. Colleagues in HIHI are exploring if InterTrade Ireland funding would be available to run an All-Ireland innovation competition which would focus on medicines optimisation.

MOIC continues to work with Invest NI and are an Invest NI Knowledge Partner. A new project with Medical AI Solutions (MAIS) titled 'Knowledge sharing and development of AI-powered medication reminders' has been approved and work on this began in December 2024. Two knowledge sharing workshops, a review of the product database and a functionality study was completed. A final report for this work was completed in April 2025



### **Personal and Public Involvement (PPI)**

MOIC is endeavouring to ensure that PPI is embedded across the work programme. During the year a PPI representative continued to sit on the MOIC Board.

Major grant applications have PPI and user representatives embedded within work programmes, for example, as part of the US-Ireland Partnership Grant application, a PPI representative was appointed via the HSC R&D division Public Involvement Enhancing Research (PIER) network. The iMPROVE project has PPI representation and has created a community of practice which includes PPI involvement.

As described above, work was undertaken at a regional level under the HSCIP in the area of heart failure. This work included patient representation from the Heart Failure Warriors and the British Heart Foundation.

When organising conferences, we endeavour to include the patient perspective in these events. For example, two PPI representatives participated as keynote speakers at the 3<sup>rd</sup> All-Ireland Conference on Antimicrobial Stewardship 'All Ireland Collaboration: a multidisciplinary approach to antimicrobial stewardship' held in Belfast during October 2025. The 1<sup>st</sup> All Island Medicines Safety Conference held in November 2024 included patient representatives in the organising committee. In addition, patient stories and presentations were included as part of the main proceedings. MOIC are involved in the organisation of this conference for 2026 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> All Island Medicines Safety Conference to be held in November 2026. PPI representation is included in the organising committees of both conferences.

As noted above, MOIC undertake evaluations of pharmacy services in Northern Ireland. Where possible and appropriate, service user experience will be included, for example service users were asked about their experience of the EHC and community pharmacy smoking cessation services.

### Financial report 2025/2026

The Medicines Optimisation and Innovation Centre has reported an overall surplus of £75k and has £978k of deferred income from commercial funding carried forward into 2025/26. The ongoing deferred income balance will be affected by a number of factors. The MOIC Board agreed to commit expenditure from this deferred income for a Senior Business Analyst post at £222k over a 3 year period. The postholder commenced in this role on 1.1.26. In addition, the Board have agreed to commit expenditure of £379k for a Consultant Pharmacist in Pharmacogenomics post. This post will be for a period of 3 years but it is yet to be filled. It is anticipated that that there will be £273K received over the duration of the 5-year iMPROVE project which will also impact on the deferred income. An income and expenditure report is included in Annex B.

## **Annex A: MOIC publications, presentations and reports 2024.25**

### **Papers & publications**

O'Neill K, Fleming G, Scott M, McAuley J, Linton A, Hall D, Whiteside L, McKeown G, Farrell E. New models of physiotherapy prescribing: an audit and survey in Northern Ireland. *Journal of Prescribing Practice*. 2025 Apr 2;7(4):165-73.

<https://doi.org/10.12968/jprp.2025.0012>

Glatkauskas M, Syversen MO, Lea M, Scott M, Svensberg K, Denstad BG, Wibe T, Mathiesen L. Application of a Human Factors Approach to Investigate the Hospital to Home transition for Patients with Multiple Long-term Conditions. *Human Factors in Healthcare*. 2025 Apr 20:100100. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.hfh.2025.100100>

Hogg A, Scott M, Fleming G, Harrison C. The Northern Ireland Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC): A decade of impact. *Pharmacy Education*. 2025 Aug 25(4) 1-108. <https://doi.org/10.46542/pe.2025.254.ppr.1108>

Hogg A, Scott MG, Fleming G, Harrison C. The Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC): A dedicated centre driving innovation in medicines optimisation - influencing healthcare policy. *Research in Social and Administrative Pharmacy*. 2025 Nov 21(11):831-950, e61-e62. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sapharm.2025.06.067>

Mair A, Kirke C, Scott MG, Micheal N, Law S, Kanan Y, Scullin C, Brown J, Fleming G, Skinner NH, Kyle D. iSIMPATY: a multinational pre–post non-randomised intervention study transforming medication review. *BMJ Open*. 2025 Nov 15: e102020. <https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/15/11/e102020>.

Vowles K, Garland C, McCarron M, Scott M, Harrison C. systematic review of independent pharmacist prescribing for the treatment of cardiometabolic factors in chronic non-

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Coleman P, Keenan B, Monaghan M, Glass R, Gardner S, Fleming G, Scott M. Evaluation of a pharmacist-led medication review and optimisation service in the management of cardiometabolic disease. European Journal of Hospital Pharmacy. 2026, Published Online First: 11 March 2026.doi:10.1136/ejhpharm-2025-004897.

### **EVENTS organised or jointly organised by MOIC**

All-Ireland Antimicrobial Stewardship Conference '*Collaborating across borders: a multidisciplinary approach to antimicrobial stewardship*', 9-10 October 2025, Hilton Hotel, Belfast. MOIC organised this event in collaboration with colleagues from Ireland and the CARA Network. This 3<sup>rd</sup> All-Ireland conference focusing on antimicrobial stewardship aimed to support, develop and implement a collaborative approach to infection management and antimicrobial resistance (AMR). The event brought together cross-sector, multidisciplinary participants from across the Island of Ireland and featured presentations from national and international experts. Participants shared their research, proposed interventions and stewardship programmes and presented new methodologies in the area of antibiotic prescribing and infections.

### **Reports**

Huey R, Fleming G, Scott M. New models of prescribing: implementation of HS21 prescribing by Foyle Hospice community prescribers. June 2025.

Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre. Pharmacy Big Discussion Workshop Results. September 2025

Glass R, Fleming G, Scott M. Health and Social Care Industry Partnership: NI Heart Failure Transformation Project Summary Report. November 2025.

Martin S, Brown J, Fleming G, Scott M. An evaluation of the Pharmacy First Service for Emergency Hormonal Contraception. December 2025.

## Presentations and posters

| Authors/Presenter                      | Title                                                                                                                                                | Poster or Oral | Conference/Meeting                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Scott M                                | Person centred medication review -the 7 steps process                                                                                                | Webinar        | EDQM webinar 20 May 2025                                                                    |
| Hogg A, Scott M, Fleming G, Harrison C | The Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC): A dedicated centre driving innovation in medicines optimisation - influencing healthcare policy | Poster         | Nordic Social Pharmacy Conference, Glasgow, 4-6 June 2025                                   |
| Hogg A, Scott M, Smith G               | A Human Centred Design Model for Medicines Optimisation - A Change Package to Support Medication without Harm                                        | Oral           | Healthcare Systems Ergonomics and Patient Safety (HEPS) Conference, Dublin, 18-20 June 2025 |
| Hogg A, Scott M, Fleming G, Harrison C | The Northern Ireland Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC): A decade of impact                                                             | Poster         | FIP, Copenhagen, 1-3 September 2025                                                         |
| Hogg A                                 | Evidencing Novel Clinical Pharmacy Practices Across A Health System                                                                                  | Oral (Plenary) | Polish Society of Clinical Pharmacy Symposium, Wroclaw 19-20 September 2025                 |

|                                                                          |                                                                      |                   |                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hogg A                                                                   | Evidencing Novel Clinical Pharmacy Practices Across A Health System  | Oral (Plenary)    | 4th Croatian Congress of Clinical Pharmacy Conference, Zagreb, 16-18 October 2025 |
| Martin S                                                                 | The doors that open when you do research and innovation              | Oral              | Northern Ireland AHP Research & Innovation conference, Belfast, 12 September 2025 |
| Leona Rogers, Joanne Brown, Claire McKeown, Laura O Loan<br>NICPLD, MOIC | What is effective professional practice to early career pharmacists? | Poster            | Pharmacy Education Conference, Manchester, June 2025                              |
| Leona Rogers, Joanne Brown, Claire McKeown, Laura O Loan<br>NICPLD, MOIC | What is effective professional practice to early career pharmacists? | Oral presentation | FIP, Copenhagen, 1-3 September 2025                                               |

## Annex B Finance Report

### Medicines Optimisation and Innovation Centre

#### Income and Expenditure position at 31st March 2026

|              | Deferred<br>Income c/f | Income from<br>other<br>Sources<br>2025/26 | Total<br>Deferred<br>Income<br>25/26 | Transfer<br>from<br>Balance<br>Sheet to<br>MOIC | Deferred<br>Income<br>Carried<br>Forward | DOH<br>Funding | Other<br>Income                | Transfer<br>from<br>Balance<br>Sheet to<br>MOIC | Total<br>Expenditure | Closing<br>Balance |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|              | £000's                 | £000's                                     | £000's                               | £000's                                          | £000's                                   | £000's         | £000's                         | £000's                                          | £000's               | £000's             |
| Projects     | - 970                  | - 8                                        | - 978                                | -                                               | - 978                                    |                |                                | -                                               |                      | -                  |
| Core         |                        |                                            |                                      |                                                 |                                          | - 789          | -                              |                                                 | 714                  | - 75               |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>- 970</b>           | <b>- 8</b>                                 | <b>- 978</b>                         | <b>-</b>                                        | <b>- 978</b>                             | <b>- 789</b>   | <b>-</b>                       | <b>-</b>                                        | <b>714</b>           | <b>- 75</b>        |
|              |                        |                                            |                                      |                                                 |                                          |                | Deferred Income c/f to 2025/26 |                                                 |                      | <b>-978</b>        |
|              |                        |                                            |                                      |                                                 |                                          |                | Surplus                        |                                                 |                      | <b>- 75</b>        |

| Medicines Optimisation and Innovation Centre Income & Expenditure as at 31st March 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                              |                           |  |  |                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|--|-----------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Project                                      | YTD As at 31st March 2026 |  |  | Deferred Income |
| Deferred Income as at 31st March 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                              |                           |  |  | - 970,174       |
| 2025/26                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                              |                           |  |  |                 |
| SPPG                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                              | - 788,653                 |  |  |                 |
| PHA                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Research & Development Programme Manager     | -                         |  |  |                 |
| External Funding YTD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                              |                           |  |  |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | PROCEDURE KITS COMMISSION - ISKUS Health Ltd |                           |  |  | - 7,634         |
| Total Income as at 31st March 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                              | - 788,653                 |  |  | - 977,808       |
| Expenditure as at 31st March 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                              |                           |  |  |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | MOIC Costs                                   |                           |  |  |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Staffing Costs                               | 700,438                   |  |  |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Non pay Costs                                | 13,275                    |  |  |                 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | R&D Staffing                                 |                           |  |  |                 |
| Total Expenditure as at 31st March 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                              | 713,713                   |  |  | -               |
| Surplus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                              | - 74,940                  |  |  | - 977,808       |
| Deferred Income as at 31st March 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                              | - 977,808                 |  |  |                 |
| Forecast as at 31st March 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                              | - 74,940                  |  |  |                 |
| Note                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                              |                           |  |  |                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>£222k has been committed from the deferred income balance of £978k over a three-year period to fund a Band 8a post (Jessica McCluney - appointed 01.01.26). Costs incurred to date total £20k; leaving a residual balance of £776k. Related invoices are issued on a quarterly basis.</li> </ul> |                                              |                           |  |  |                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additionally, a further £379k has been committed over a three-year period for a Consultant Pharmacogenomics Pharmacist. This results in a remaining residual balance of £397k.</li> </ul>                                                                                                        |                                              |                           |  |  |                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is anticipated that £273k will be received from the IMPROVE project over its five-year lifetime, which will increase the deferred income balance.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                  |                                              |                           |  |  |                 |

