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| Host department: Bristol |
| Project Title: |
| Green prescribing: exploring how climate change considerations can impact medication optimisation |
| Proposed supervisory team: Names and areas of expertise to be included |
| Dr Rupert Payne (Academic GP, Clinical Pharmacologist)Dr Deborah McCahon (Research Fellow in Primary Care)(environmental scientist, TBC)Cambridge: Dr Marie Fisk (Clinical Pharmacologist) |
| Potential for cross consortium networking and educational opportunities: |
| This project will align with ongoing interests in Bristol and Cambridge. It will help strengthen links between general practice and clinical pharmacology and pharmacy, as well as creating cross-disciplinary links through Bristol’s strong reputation in Population Health Sciences and environmental science (based in the Cabot Institute). |
| Project description: |
| BackgroundThe pharmaceutical industry is an important contributor towards carbon emissions and environmental impact. However, clinical practice rarely considers the environmental consequences of the medicines it uses. The aim of this PhD project is to explore the environmental impact of prescribing and potential opportunities to reduce associated emissions. MethodsThe following methods will be employed:A systematic review examining the emissions involved in prescribing, including in relation to manufacturing, logistics and waste.An epidemiological study using routine prescribing/dispensing data, informed by the earlier review, to explore which aspects of prescribing have the most significant impact on emissions and the environment.A qualitative research project, interviewing patients, prescribers, community pharmacists, and commissioners, to explore the barriers and facilitators to implementing “greener” practices as part of routine prescribing and medicines optimisation.Potential impactThis project has the potential to inform improved sustainable healthcare practices within the NHS. |

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| Training and development provision by host: |
| *Formal training:*Training will be tailored to the individual student’s needs. The student will have access to relevant Short Courses at Bristol Medical School, including systematic reviews, statistics, and qualitative research methods. Additional postgraduate training courses, such as research governance, ethics, PPI and leadership, will also be available. |
| *Informal training:* The student will benefit from being based within Bristol’s Centre for Academic Primary Care, which is a supportive, multidisciplinary unit. There will be the opportunity to access informal support from experts with wide-ranging methodological experience, and engage in a wide range of seminars and meetings hosted within CAPC, as well as the wider institution, including Medical School, Department of Population Health Sciences, and the Cabot Institute for the Environment. Mentoring will be offered through the Society of Academic Primary Care scheme. |
| *PPIE:* Bristol’s Medicine and Prescribing research group has an established PPI group that will support the project on a twice-yearly basis, with additional ad hoc support as required. |