

Title	Belfast HSC Trust – Pharmacist-Led Lipid Optimisation in Cardiac Rehabilitation
Organisations Involved	Amgen Limited and Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (HSC)
Collaborative Working Project Description	<p>This project aims to enhance lipid management for post-cardiac event patients within Belfast HSC Trust by embedding a dedicated Band 8a clinical pharmacist into the cardiac rehabilitation multidisciplinary team. The pharmacist will lead outpatient lipid optimisation clinics, conduct proactive in-reach reviews across cardiology, stroke, and vascular departments, and initiate or adjust lipid-lowering therapies in line with NICE and ESC guidelines through independent prescribing. Additional responsibilities include supporting discharge planning, providing education to the cardiac rehab team, and contributing to audits and data collection to evaluate service impact and inform a business case for sustainable commissioning.</p>
Expected Outcomes	<p>The overall outcome is expected to demonstrate the clinical and operational value of embedding a pharmacist within the cardiac rehabilitation team, enhancing lipid management and supporting adherence to cardiovascular care guidelines. This will also inform a business case for long-term sustainability.</p> <p>Key expected outcomes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased patient review capacity, enabling timely lipid optimisation for post-cardiac event patients. • Reduction in backlog of complex lipid cases and improved access to specialist therapies. • Enhanced adherence to NICE and ESC lipid management guidelines through pharmacist-led prescribing. • Identification and management of high-risk patients, including those with familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH). • Improved continuity of care across inpatient and outpatient settings via proactive in-reach activity. • Collaboration with multidisciplinary teams to integrate lipid management into broader cardiovascular care pathways. • Increased awareness and capability within the cardiac rehab team through pharmacist-led education and training. • Collection of audit data to demonstrate service impact, cost-effectiveness, and scalability. • Development of a robust business case for long-term funding and integration of the pharmacist role into core service delivery.