

Statement

On reducing medication error

February 2018

Any initiative to reduce harm to patients and improve safety is welcome so we applaud the Secretary of State's announcement on reducing medication error and the report of the Short-life Working Group. As is recognised this is a global issue and there are a range a causes of these errors - this is not about blaming clinicians.

The Academy has long supported full implementation of electronic prescribing and while this won't eliminate all errors but will certainly improve safety. As the instigators of the Choosing Wisely initiative in the UK, we particularly welcome the recognition that this approach involving open conversations between doctors and patients can contribute to better safer outcomes for patients.

The Academy looks forward to contributing to this important work to reduce harm to patients.

Ends