

G.1 What information and support is needed by family members and/or carers of people being prescribed an opioid, benzodiazepine, z-drug, antidepressant or gabapentinoid?

Why this is important

Families and carers can be an important source of support for many people being offered, taking, or stopping prescribed medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms however there is no evidence on the information or support that they require to equip them for this role.

Rationale for research recommendation

Importance to 'patients' or the population	Families and carers can be an important source of consistently available trusted support for patients. Evidence on what information and support would equip them best to carry out this role could have a significant impact on the health-related quality of life of patients prescribed medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms.
Relevance to NICE guidance	Although there is evidence for information that patients require when prescribed medicines, there is no evidence for information or support that their families or carers may require. More research in this area may help inform recommendations in future updates of this guideline.
Relevance to the NHS	Evidence on information and support required by families and carers could significantly reduce the support that patients require from NHS healthcare practitioners, reducing the burden on service delivery.
National priorities	None
Current evidence base	There was no evidence found in the evidence review specifically for the information needs of families and carers.
Equality considerations	This intervention does address the requirements of patients who have family or carer support networks that are either absent or not easily accessible e.g., people who may be subject to socioeconomic deprivation, those who are isolated in rural areas, homeless, or in the criminal justice system.

Modified PICO table

Population	Families and carers of those prescribed medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms.
Intervention	Qualitative review, therefore, there would be no specific intervention
Comparator	N/A
Outcome	Views of families and carers on the information requirements
Study design	Qualitative – in-depth interviews or focus groups with thematic analysis.
Timeframe	Short and medium-term
Additional information	None