

ELECTRONIC MEDICATION DATA TRANSFER PROGRAM

FOR AN UP-TO-DATE AND COMPLETE MEDICATION OVERVIEW FOR EVERY HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONAL AND PATIENT

Sylvia Blind, Anneke Huisman, Fong Sodihardjo and Elaine Wong-Go
Royal Dutch Pharmacists Association (KNMP), The Hague, The Netherlands.

Contact: s.blind@knmp.nl

BACKGROUND

Complete and proper electronic transfer of medication data is important. It can prevent unnecessary medication errors and hospital admissions. In addition, digital exchange replaces time-consuming administrative work. This ensures healthcare providers to do what they do best: provide patients with the best care. This is also applicable to pharmacists. Pharmacists need complete, correct and up to date data to provide optimal medication monitoring and personalised pharmaceutical care for the patient. The developments of digital medication data exchange make it important for patients to choose one community pharmacist who proactively monitors and manages the patient's pharmaceutical record and takes action if anything changes in the patient's medication data.

AIMS

The aim of the Medication Data Transfer program is to improve electronic transfer of medication data for an up-to-date and complete medication overview for every health care professional and every patient and thereby reducing medication errors and hospital admissions. In The Netherlands the Medication Data Transfer is necessary because every healthcare provider has a stand alone application. The program is the implementation of the multidisciplinary medication data transfer guideline (2018). The aim of the guideline is to clarify the role and responsibilities of patients, prescribers, pharma-

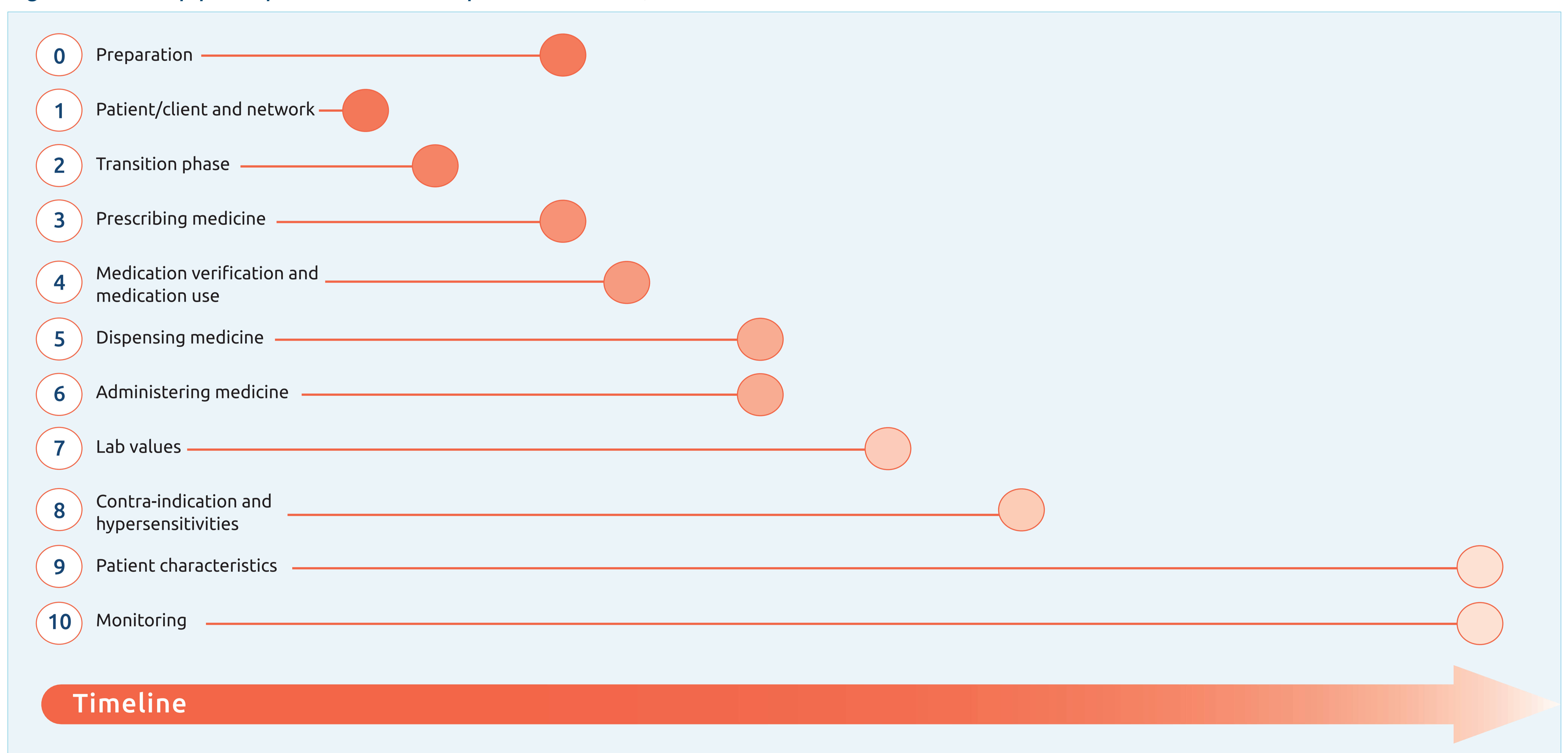
cists (hospital as well as community pharmacists) and nurses regarding to medication data transfer. The Medication Data Transfer program is part of VIPP Pharmacy (accelerating the exchange of medication data between patients and professionals). For instance, VIPP Pharmacy uses the information standards from the Medication Data Transfer program.

METHOD

In The Netherlands, a multiparty collaboration of 24 healthcare professional associations and organisations (e.g. patients, prescribers, nurses and pharmacists) has been started and financed by the government. In the coming years, 10 steps will be taken towards an up-to-date and complete overview of medication data [figure 1]. On the basis of that medication overview, medication verification and risk assessment can take place. The order of these 10 steps is determined on the basis of the starting situation, the relationship between the steps and the impact.

The 10 steps includes: preparation, patient/client and network, transition phase, prescribing medicine, medication verification and medication use, dispensing medicine, administering medicine, lab values, contra-indication and hypersensitivities, patient characteristics, monitoring. The Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport has made a subsidy available to test the steps of Medication Process 9 in a limited setting.

Figure 1: 10-step plan up-to-date and complete overview of medication data



RESULTS

The final result is that:

- An up-to-date and complete medication overview for every healthcare professional and every patient is available;
- Healthcare providers comply with the new guideline 'Transfer of medication data in the chain';
- Their registration systems, in which the information standards for medication transfer are built in, support the healthcare providers.

CONCLUSION

The actual transfer of medication is an issue of all healthcare professionals in The Netherlands. Therefore all 24 healthcare organisations from 10 healthcare sectors, 75 software suppliers and over 16.000 healthcare providers committed to the Medication Data Transfer Programm. They will build and implement the guideline 'Transfer of medication data in the chain'. In order to generate an up-to-date and complete medication overview for every healthcare professional and patient and thereby to improve medication safety.