



## Parkinson's Learning Pathway for Pharmacy Professionals

A directory of educational courses and resources

[Click to enter](#)



## Welcome

Parkinson's affects approximately 145,000 people in the UK.

It is a neurodegenerative condition, for which there currently is no cure. Parkinson's was traditionally considered a movement disorder, but increasing evidence of the presence and impact of non-motor symptoms is emerging. Between motor and non-motor symptoms, almost all body systems can be affected. Without a cure, treatment relies heavily upon symptom management, often with medication which can make a significant impact on the quality of life of people with Parkinson's.

Therefore, it is really important that all pharmacy professionals, across all care settings, have insight and are aware of available resources to help with understanding and are able to help with medicines optimisation and support for people with Parkinson's.

This pathway aims to signpost people to available training and resources to develop and maintain up to date knowledge and insight of Parkinson's.

Shelley Jones  
Consultant Pharmacist, Neurosciences at Kings College Hospital

Next



Welcome

Contact  
us

How it works

Start

Home

New

Some

Experienced

## Contact us

We would love to know what you think of the Learning Pathway and if there are any other courses near you that could be added to it.

### Email

You can email us at: [education@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:education@parkinsons.org.uk)

### Twitter

Tweet using the handle: [@ParkinsonsEN](https://twitter.com/ParkinsonsEN)

### Feedback form

Fill in our easy [feedback form](#)

Next



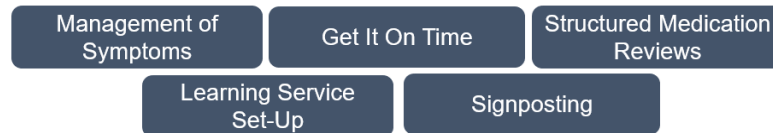
## How to use the Learning Pathway

This Learning Pathway is for all pharmacy professionals, working in any setting with people with Parkinson's.

The pathway is designed to be easy to navigate and has three main routes, allowing you to explore according to your experience and knowledge level (New, Some or Experienced):



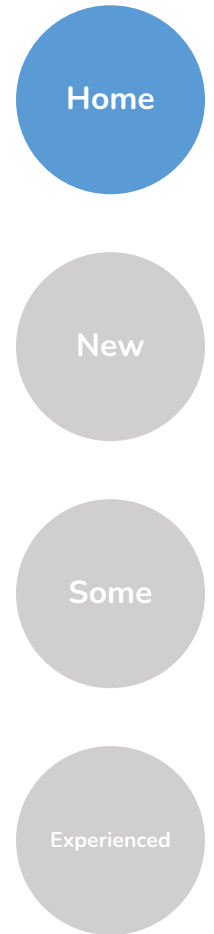
You can also explore different learning categories by clicking on the different menu tabs:



The Learning Pathway contains many resources and courses about Parkinson's, which give useful overviews of the condition, general resources and ways to learn about specific issues.

Please note all course information is correct at the time of publication in July 2023. The next update for this publication is January 2024.

**Next**





# Start



What is your level of knowledge and experience with Parkinson's care?  
(click on the relevant button below)



New to  
Parkinson's



Some experience  
with Parkinson's



Experienced  
in  
Parkinson's





Select your learning category

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Return to menu**



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

**Parkinson's: Foundation Modules for Pharmacists (Parkinson's UK)**

**Key Information for Community Pharmacists booklet**

**Specialist Pharmacy Service: Swallowing difficulties**

**Pharmacists - what you need to know about Parkinson's**

**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Parkinson's: Foundation Modules for Pharmacists

**Provider:** Parkinson's UK

**Cost:** Free

**Duration:** Approx. 10 hours

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's: Foundation Modules for Pharmacists](#)

### Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

These free, online, interactive modules delivered by Parkinson's UK will help any pharmacist, pharmacy team member or student increase their knowledge and understanding of Parkinson's, so they can improve their practice.

The learning units focus on the following areas:

- What is Parkinson's?
- How can I help people with Parkinson's manage their symptoms?
- What communication challenges may people with Parkinson's have?
- How is Parkinson's managed?

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

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Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Specialist Pharmacy Service: Swallowing difficulties](#)

This directory provides a comprehensive and up-to date list of advice on using medicines safely and effectively in patients with swallowing difficulties, such as those with Parkinson's.

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

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What will participants learn?

The course covers the following areas:

- What Parkinson's is
- Common symptoms
- Drug therapy for Parkinson's
- Medication side effects

By the end of the course you will have:

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- An awareness of opportunities for further support

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

**Key information for hospital Pharmacists booklet**

**Get Parkinson's medications on time: the Leeds QI project**

**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Relevant Sector

Care Home

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Care Home

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

There are not currently any courses or resources applicable to this category and experience level.

Please click on the button below to return to the previous menu.

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

**Janine Barnes: 'Pharmacists don't need to be frightened of Parkinson's disease'**

**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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As a neurology specialist pharmacist, Royal Pharmaceutical Society Fellow Janine Barnes has dedicated her working life to highlighting Parkinson's disease and why pharmacists must be involved in its management.

This interview with her explores her work and what pharmacists can do, within multidisciplinary teams, to support people with Parkinson's disease.

Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

**Parkinson's Mental Health Support Hub**

**Parkinson's Disease Specialist Pharmacy Network**

**UKCPA Neurosciences Group**

**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured Medication Reviews

Learning Service Set-Up

Signposting

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### Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu



Select your learning category

Management of Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured Medication Reviews

Learning Service Set-Up

Signposting

Return to menu



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

**Parkinson's: Foundation Modules for Pharmacists (Parkinson's UK)**

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**Parkinson's Academy: Good practice in commencing and changing Parkinson's medication regimes**

**Parkinson's Academy: Neuropsychiatric signs and symptoms in Parkinson's and treatment options**

**Pharmacists - what you need to know about Parkinson's**

**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured Medication Reviews

Learning Service Set-Up

Signposting

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### Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Parkinson's Academy: Good practice in commencing and changing Parkinson's medication regimes

**Provider:** Parkinson's Academy (Neurology Academy)

**Cost:** Free

**Duration:** Approx. 1 hour

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's Academy: Good practice in commencing and changing Parkinson's medication regimes](#)

This online webinar, recorded in December 2020, invites expert speakers Dr Neil Archibald, Viv Horton and Hannah Martin to present slides on the following topics:

- Medication and treatment decisions
- Person-centred care
- Communication
- Signposting
- Changing therapy

Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Parkinson's Academy: Neuropsychiatric signs and symptoms in Parkinson's and treatment options

**Provider:** Parkinson's Academy (Neurology Academy)

**Cost:** Free

**Duration:** Approx. 1 hour

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's Academy: Neuropsychiatric signs and symptoms in Parkinson's and treatment options](#)

This online webinar, recorded in May 2022, invites expert speakers Prof Suzanne Timmons and Prof Iracema Leroi to discuss:

- What are the most frequent neuropsychiatric signs to look out for?
- When to refer to specialist services and what treatments are available?

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured Medication Reviews

Learning Service Set-Up

Signposting

## Pharmacists - what you need to know about Parkinson's

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### Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

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Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

Key information for hospital Pharmacists booklet

Get Parkinson's medications on time: the Leeds QI project

Get It On Time – Parkinson's medication (Parkinson's UK)

Medicines optimisation consensus statement (Parkinson's UK)

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Care Home

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Relevant Sector

Care Home

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Get It On Time – Parkinson's medication

**Provider:** Parkinson's UK/Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**Cost:** Free

**Duration:** 1 hour minimum

**Web page:** [Find out more on Get It On Time – Parkinson's medication](#)

This free online course teaches hospital staff about Parkinson's symptoms, treatments and the importance of medication timing.

The course focuses on the following areas:

- What is Parkinson's?
- The symptoms of Parkinson's
- Treatments for Parkinson's
- Why medicine should be given on time

Relevant Sector

Care Home

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

Relevant Sector

Care Home

Hospital

## Medicines optimisation consensus statement

**Provider:** Parkinson's UK

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Medicines optimisation consensus statement](#)

This consensus statement, along with its supporting checklist, case for service change and audit appendices, outlines the key medicines management issues that may face people with Parkinson's who are admitted to hospital. This includes the need to get their medication on time. It also highlights ways to manage these effectively.

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

Click on the course/resource to find out more:

Parkinson's SMRs (Parkinson's UK)

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Parkinson's SMRs

**Provider:** Parkinson's UK

**Cost:** Free

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's SMRs](#)

The course also provides signposting opportunities which are relevant to all people with Parkinson's wherever their care is undertaken. If you are not a community pharmacist, where the course refers to community pharmacy please take the opportunity to reflect on how you can use and share the information to support people with Parkinson's (and their carers) in your daily practice.

In this SMRs course you will be able to read, watch and listen to multimedia and interactive resources.

These include:

- case studies
- a video of a mock SMR with questions asked throughout
- forum discussions
- reflective exercises.

Relevant Sector

Community

GP

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

**Janine Barnes: 'Pharmacists don't need to be frightened of Parkinson's disease'**

**A pilot evaluation of specialist community pharmacy services for patients with Parkinson's**

**Parkinson's disease-specific medicines use review**

**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

Relevant Sector

Community

GP

## A pilot evaluation of specialist community pharmacy services for patients with Parkinson's disease

**Provider:** The Pharmaceutical Journal

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on A pilot evaluation of specialist community pharmacy services for patients with Parkinson's disease](#)

This study aims to undertake a preliminary evaluation of a community pharmacy scheme in which Parkinson's disease patients could contact local specialist pharmacists about their Parkinson's disease medicines. Please note this resource is only accessible to RPS members.

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

Relevant Sector

Community

GP

## Parkinson's disease-specific medicines use review

**Provider:** The Pharmaceutical Journal

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's disease-specific medicines use review](#)

This article examines how members of Royal Pharmaceutical Society's London North West Local Practice Forum are working with charity Parkinson's UK to develop a new service for patients with Parkinson's disease. The overall aim is to develop a Parkinson's-specific medicines use review by designing and trialling it in an initial and follow-up trial.

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

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Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced



Select your learning category

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Return to menu**



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

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Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Specialist Pharmacy Service: Swallowing difficulties

**Provider:** Specialist Pharmacy Service (NHS)

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Specialist Pharmacy Service: Swallowing difficulties](#)

This directory provides a comprehensive and up-to date list of advice on using medicines safely and effectively in patients with swallowing difficulties, such as those with Parkinson's.

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Parkinson's Academy: Good practice in commencing and changing Parkinson's medication regimes

**Provider:** Parkinson's Academy (Neurology Academy)

**Cost:** Free

**Duration:** Approx. 1 hour

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's Academy: Good practice in commencing and changing Parkinson's medication regimes](#)

This online webinar, recorded in December 2020, invites expert speakers Dr Neil Archibald, Viv Horton and Hannah Martin to present slides on the following topics:

- Medication and treatment decisions
- Person-centred care
- Communication
- Signposting
- Changing therapy

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Parkinson's Academy: Neuropsychiatric signs and symptoms in Parkinson's and treatment options

**Provider:** Parkinson's Academy (Neurology Academy)

**Cost:** Free

**Duration:** Approx. 1 hour

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's Academy: Neuropsychiatric signs and symptoms in Parkinson's and treatment options](#)

This online webinar, recorded in May 2022, invites expert speakers Prof Suzanne Timmons and Prof Iracema Leroi to discuss:

- What are the most frequent neuropsychiatric signs to look out for?
- When to refer to specialist services and what treatments are available?

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured Medication Reviews

Learning Service Set-Up

Signposting

## Pharmacists - what you need to know about Parkinson's

**Provider:** Parkinson's UK

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Pharmacists - what you need to know about Parkinson's](#)

This 15- minute course provides a background to understanding Parkinson's and discusses specific aspects of the condition that are of direct relevance to pharmacists. This course has been developed to assist pharmacists in continuing to support people with Parkinson's, as effectively as possible.

What will participants learn?

The course covers the following areas:

- What Parkinson's is
- Common symptoms
- Drug therapy for Parkinson's
- Medication side effects

By the end of the course you will have:

- Knowledge of the common symptoms of Parkinson's (both motor and non-motor)
- An understanding of some of the challenges and side effects associated with drug therapy for Parkinson's
- An awareness of opportunities for further support

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

**Get Parkinson's medications on time: the Leeds QI project**

**Get It On Time – Parkinson's medication (Parkinson's UK)**

**Medicines optimisation consensus statement (Parkinson's UK)**

**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

Relevant Sector

Care Home

Hospital

## Get Parkinson's medications on time: the Leeds QI project

**Provider:** British Geriatrics Society

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Get Parkinson's medications on time: the Leeds QI](#)

This article, published in September 2020, explores the implications of delaying the administration of Parkinson's medications. It also examines the success of projects to ensure medication dose delays are kept to under 1 hour.

The weblink will direct you to a page where you can read the article or download it as a PDF.

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

Relevant Sector

Care Home

Hospital

## Get It On Time – Parkinson’s Medication

**Provider:** Parkinson’s UK/ Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

**Cost:** Free

**Duration:** 1 hour minimum

**Web page:** [Find out more on Get It On Time – Parkinson’s Medication](#)

This free online course teaches hospital staff about Parkinson's symptoms, treatments and the importance of medication timing.

The course focuses on the following areas:

- What is Parkinson’s?
- The symptoms of Parkinson’s
- Treatments for Parkinson’s
- Why medicine should be given on time

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

Relevant Sector

Care Home

Hospital

## Medicines optimisation consensus statement

**Provider:** Parkinson's UK

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Medicines optimisation consensus statement](#)

This consensus statement, along with its supporting checklist, case for service change and audit appendices, outlines the key medicines management issues that may face people with Parkinson's who are admitted to hospital. This includes the need to get their medication on time. It also highlights ways to manage these effectively.

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

**Parkinson's SMRs (Parkinson's UK)**

**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced



Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Parkinson's SMRs

**Provider:** Parkinson's UK

**Cost:** Free

**Duration:** 2 hours

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's SMRs](#)

The course also provides signposting opportunities which are relevant to all people with Parkinson's wherever their care is undertaken. If you are not a community pharmacist, where the course refers to community pharmacy please take the opportunity to reflect on how you can use and share the information to support people with Parkinson's (and their carers) in your daily practice. In this SMRs course you will be able to read, watch and listen to multimedia and interactive resources.

These include:

- case studies
- a video of a mock SMR with questions asked throughout
- forum discussions
- reflective exercises.

Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Community

GP

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

Janine Barnes: 'Pharmacists don't need to be frightened of Parkinson's disease'

A pilot evaluation of specialist community pharmacy services for patients with Parkinson's

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Janine Barnes: 'Pharmacists don't need to be frightened of Parkinson's disease'

**Provider:** The Pharmaceutical Journal

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Janine Barnes: 'Pharmacists don't need to be frightened of Parkinson's disease'](#)

As a neurology specialist pharmacist, Royal Pharmaceutical Society Fellow Janine Barnes has dedicated her working life to highlighting Parkinson's disease and why pharmacists must be involved in its management.

This interview with her explores her work and what pharmacists can do, within multidisciplinary teams, to support people with Parkinson's disease.

Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

Relevant Sector

Community

GP

## A pilot evaluation of specialist community pharmacy services for patients with Parkinson's disease

**Provider:** The Pharmaceutical Journal

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on A pilot evaluation of specialist community pharmacy services for patients with Parkinson's disease](#)

This study aims to undertake a preliminary evaluation of a community pharmacy scheme in which Parkinson's disease patients could contact local specialist pharmacists about their Parkinson's disease medicines. Please note this resource is only accessible to RPS members.

Return to menu

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

**Click on the course/resource to find out more:**

**Parkinson's Mental Health Support Hub**

**Parkinson's Disease Specialist Pharmacy Network**

**UKCPA Neurosciences Group**

**Return to menu**

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Parkinson's Mental Health Support Hub

**Provider:** Parkinson's Care and Support UK

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's Mental Health Support Hub](#)

The Parkinson's Mental Health Support Hub is designed to address and tackle the most common mental health issues within Parkinson's whilst providing adequate support for newly diagnosed people and those who are approaching end of life.

The hub will provide four distinct services which include:

- Cognitive Behavioural Therapy
- Acceptance and Commitment Therapy
- End of Life and Bereavement Support Line
- Befriending and Companionship Network

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Return to menu

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## Parkinson's Disease Specialist Pharmacy Network

**Provider:** Parkinson's UK

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on Parkinson's Disease Specialist Pharmacy Network](#)

The Parkinson's Disease Specialist Pharmacy Network (PDSPN) is chaired by Stephanie Bancroft, Community Pharmacist and Royal Pharmaceutical Society Local Practice Forum Lead for London Northwest.

Click on the weblink to read about its activities, committee and ways to get involved

Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced

Management of  
Symptoms

Get It On Time

Structured  
Medication Reviews

Learning Service  
Set-Up

Signposting

## UKCPA Neurosciences Group

**Provider:** UKCPA – Clinical Pharmacy Association

**Cost:** Free

**Web page:** [Find out more on UKCPA Neurosciences Group](#)

The UKCPA Neurosciences Committee is a rapidly growing community of pharmacy practitioners who work with patients with neurological conditions.

The Committee actively works to raise the profile and contribution of pharmacists within neurological services and their commissioning through engagement both within and outside of pharmacy, contributions to Clinical Reference Groups and other working groups, and working with neurological charities and associations.

Click on the weblink to read about its activities, committee and ways to get involved

Return to menu

Relevant Sector

Community

Care Home

GP

Hospital

Home

New

Some

Experienced