



Medicines and older people with visual and/or hearing loss: finding solutions to the challenges

Dr Peter Fuzesi
Research Associate

Dr Kirsten Broadfoot
Research Associate

**Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences &
Computer and Information Sciences**

Older People in the UK

- Life expectancy is around 79 years for males and 83 years for females
- 12.3 million (1 in 5 people) are 65 years or over; this will be nearly 20 million (1 in 4 people) by 2050
- Of the 3.8 million people who currently live alone, nearly 1.9 million are 65 years or over

Older people who use medicines are more likely to

- Have multiple health problems
- Have hearing and/or visual loss which becomes worse as they age - over half of adults with hearing loss are 70 years of age or older - and increasingly limits activities (compared with their peers with no loss)
- use several medicines increasing their risks of medicine-related harms and problems such as confusion, falls and medicine failure (compared with younger individuals)

Sensory Impairment: Visual and/or Hearing Loss

- By 2035, over 15 million people will have hearing loss
- By 2030, 2.7 million people will have visual loss compared to 1.9 million people currently
- Individuals with visual loss are more likely to live alone
- By 2030, over 0.5 million will have both hearing and visual loss (dual loss)

Key Findings from SIPA1



Older people with visual and/or hearing loss:

- often do not inform pharmacy personnel of their challenges

Has she seen me?

I like to retain as much independence as I can.

- are highly vulnerable to medicine-related problems

They reintroduced the 4mg tablets and I was taking 8 (4mg) tablets a day instead of 8 (2mg) tablets so my blood pressure just went right down.

Pharmacy Personnel

- frequently provided care for older people with visual/hearing loss
- are often unaware of individual challenges
- rarely received training to support people with sensory loss.

We're really not ready for this!

SIPA2: Improving the pharmaceutical care of older people with sensory impairment



Identify better and safer ways for older people with sensory impairment to manage their medicines.

- Sensory impairment = any and all levels of visual and/or hearing loss
- Pharmaceutical care = entire medicine journey from ordering to disposing of medicines

The Medicine Journey



SIPA2: Improving the pharmaceutical care of older people with sensory impairment



Remarkable
research for
healthy ageing
THE DUNHILL MEDICAL TRUST

Working together with patients, relatives, health and social care professionals: What would be the ideal medicine journey?

- Products
- Solutions
- Pharmacy service
- Environment/spaces
- Training

SIPA2: Improving the pharmaceutical care of older people with sensory impairment



- Identify current and innovative ways to help older people with visual and/or hearing loss and others involved in their care with their medicines
- "A day in the life of" - gather everyday experiences of older people with visual and/or hearing loss on their medicine journey
- Bring patients, carers, designers, and health and social care professionals together to find solutions that work for everyone

SIPA2: Improving the pharmaceutical care of older people with sensory impairment



Remarkable
research for
healthy ageing
THE DUNHILL MEDICAL TRUST

- Identify novel and existing products and services to help older people with sensory impairment
- Online training for health care professionals and guidelines for service improvement

The SIPA2 Team

Grant-holders

Professor Margaret (Mags) Watson (Lead Investigator)

Professor Annetta Smith

Dr Leah Macaden

Dr Sabrina Jacob

Dr Marilyn Lennon

Dr Tomas Welsh

Dr Graham Wilson

Researchers

Dr Peter Fuzesi

Dr Kirsten Broadfoot

Dr Jaheedabegum Gangannagaripalli

Collaborators

Dr Hazel Boyd



Can you help with SIPA2?

We are looking for people:

- aged 65 years old or older
- who have some visual and/or hearing loss
- use prescription medicines regularly
- and live in Scotland

For more information, please contact peter.fuzesi@strath.ac.uk

Thank you!