



# The National Medication Safety Programme of Community Pharmacies in Finland 2021-2026

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# Aim of the Programme

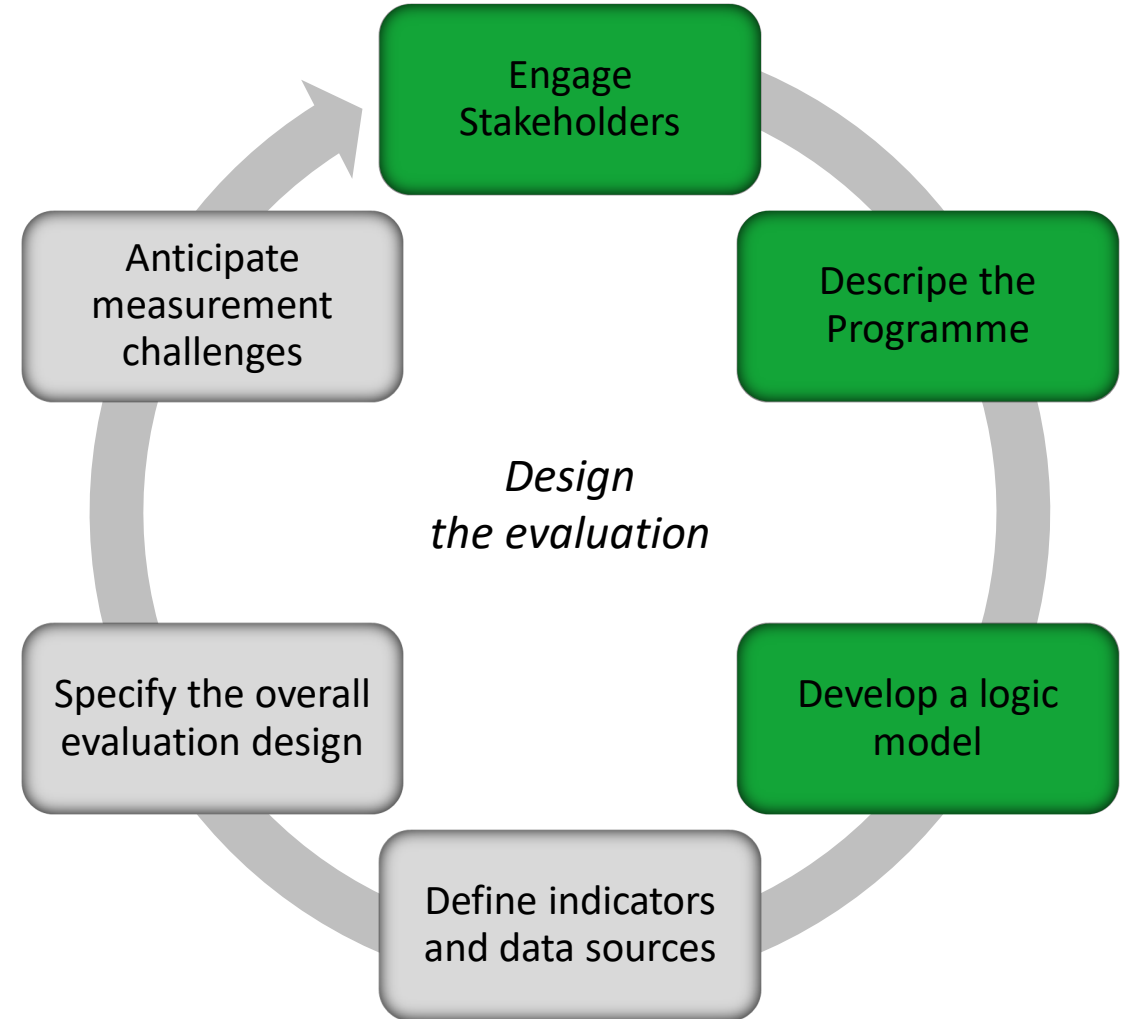
- Medication errors are the leading cause of patient harm in health care systems across the world
- Although most medicines are used at home, less attention has been paid to **improve medication safety in outpatient care**
- Community pharmacies could be used more effectively in this respect
- The National Medication Safety Programme of Community Pharmacies was established to **increase community pharmacists' contribution to medication safety** and to **strengthen collaboration** between health and social care organizations and community pharmacies

# Methods

The program evaluation method\* was used to develop a systematic description of the Programme:

- Engage Stakeholders
- Describe the Program
- Develop a logic model

*\*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Framework for Program Evaluation*



# Activities (2021-2022) of the Valo Programme

1. Implementing a patient safety incident reporting system for ME reporting in community pharmacies
  - Enables reporting between community pharmacies and health and social care organizations
2. Promoting medication safety culture and enhancing competence in medication risk management in community pharmacies
3. Promoting collaboration between community pharmacies, and between community pharmacies and health and social care organizations regionally
4. Creating a national research strategy for outpatient medication safety

## Inputs (i.e. resources)

## Actions 2021–2022 for community pharmacies

## Outputs

## Outcomes

## Impact 2026

National network of patient and medication safety experts\*\*\*

Awanic Ltd \*\*

Pharmaceutical Learning Centre \*\*

The Association of Finnish Pharmacies \*

Finnish Centre for Client and Patient Safety \*

University of Helsinki \*

**1.1 Implementing the patient safety incident reporting system (HaiPro) for in-house ME reporting**

**2.1 Continuing education modules**

**2.2 Self-assessment tool for medication safety competence**

**2.3 Position of a medication safety pharmacist**

**4.1 Creating a national research strategy for outpatient medication safety**

**1.2 Implementing the patient safety incident reporting system (HaiPro) for ME reporting between community pharmacies and health and social care organizations**

**3.1 National network of medication safety pharmacists**

**3.2 Regional teams of medication safety experts**

Same patient safety incident reporting procedure is used in community pharmacies and health and social care organizations

System-based medication safety culture and competence is promoted in community pharmacies

Teams of medication safety experts coordinate communication between community pharmacies and health and social care organizations regionally

Outpatient medication safety research is conducted under the guidance of the national research strategy

Information on patient safety incidents is communicated between community pharmacies and health and social care organizations

Medication safety incidents are identified and reported more comprehensively in community pharmacies

Outpatient medication safety research is available for use

Risk management and safety of outpatient medication use process is promoted regionally in collaboration of all organizations involved

Risk management and medication safety is promoted in community pharmacies

Outpatient medication safety research supports safe medication practices in health and social care

Medication treatments for outpatients are carried out more safely and appropriately

\* Project team;  
\* and \*\* Extended project team;  
\*\*\*established to support the Valo Programme

# Conclusions

To our knowledge the National Medication Safety Programme of Community Pharmacies in Finland is a unique project to promote safer medication for outpatients.

This study provides experiences on how health and social care systems could better utilize community pharmacies in medication risk management in outpatient care.

# References

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Thank you!

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Read more on the **Programme's website:**

[valo.apteekki.fi/information-in-english](https://valo.apteekki.fi/information-in-english)