1. What are you planning to learn?

I am planning to learn about the cost-effective prescribing of long-acting muscarinic antagonists in COPD. This learning is relevant to my role as a pharmacy support facilitator. I must be able to effectively, without compromising patient safety or care, switch patients to new inhalers. I have been asked to perform this switch in various General Practices. This learning will mean patients will get the opportunity to be counselled on the most appropriate inhaler for them and the correct use of it.

2. How are you planning to learn it?

I plan to read through the SOP and support pack provided. I plan to read the Review guide on the Cost-effective prescribing of long-acting muscarinic antagonists in COPD I have been supplied with. I also plan to talk to experienced colleagues and meet with the practice nurses who are involved with the COPD patients to explain the review and ask for any input or experience they may be able to share.

3. Give an example of how this learning has benefited the people using your services.

I have applied the learning by reviewing patients notes and switching only the appropriate patients to the new inhalers. Patients not switched were e.g. patients with a current exacerbation, patients with asthma only, or patients where their life circumstances made the switch inappropriate. Learning benefits for patients is that they are given the opportunity to be counselled and trained on their new inhalers. The patient can speak to someone over the phone or face to face who understands their problem hand has a good basic knowledge of their treatment. Patients have said the new inhaler is easier to use.