

Royal College of General Practitioners and Warwick Medical School
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Abstract Submission Form

PRESENTER'S DETAILS	
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Category Research	
PRESENTATION DETAILS	
Authors Jessica Runacres - PhD Candidate Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant Sarahjane Jones - Senior Research Fellow, Eloise Phillips - Doctoral Student, Lucy Land - Professor of Nursing, Maxine Lintern - Professor of Medical Sciences	Title of Study Understanding social prescribing
What's the problem you are tackling? This research aimed to describe and define the fundamental elements of 'social prescribing' to reduce the ambiguity of its application. Evidence has suggested that 'social prescribing' can expand options available to patients in primary care services. However, a clear definition of the concept is lacking, resulting in the term being applied to vast range of services and treatment options.	
How did/will you do it? Walker and Avant's concept analysis method was used to acquire and review academic literature published from 2006 which defined social prescribing.	
What did you find? The analysis of the academic literature found the term to be conceptualised in one of two ways; to describe the action of referral and as a journey of improvement. An operational definition was derived from the results of the analysis: social prescribing is a process by which a healthcare professional refers patients with non-clinical needs to non-medical sources of support within the community, with or without an intermediary service, to improve health and wellbeing.	
Why does this matter? The definition produced provides a better understanding of the concept of social prescribing through the identification of its defining attributes and sample cases. With the NHS recently naming social prescribing one of the ten high impact actions to release capacity in general practice it is imperative that the concept is fully understood; as a fundamental requirement for adopting a new concept is a well-defined articulation of its assumptions and manifestations.	