**Chair’s Welcome**

**Governance of Controlled Drug Prescribing**

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**Dr Weeliat Chong** is the Chief Pharmacist and Controlled Drugs Accountable Officer of Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust. He was the Chair of the NICE Medicines Optimisation Committee and the Vice Chair of the NICE Controlled Drugs – Safe Management and Use Committee. Dr Chong was also a specialist member of the NICE Quality Standards Advisory Committee for medicines optimisation.

**Abstract**

Heath care organisations have variable systems and processes in place for the prescription, administration and management of controlled drugs.

It is imperative that these systems and processes allow controlled drugs to be used safely, without restricting appropriate and convenient access for people who need treatment with controlled drugs.

Take home messages:

1. Always put patients at the heart of everything we do
2. Assess and try to achieve a good balance between potential benefits and harms
3. Keep a good record of how a decision was made
4. Be vigilant and don’t be complacent about the importance of professionalism and human factors
5. Look out for gaps in the system and address them
6. Speak up when things go wrong or when you have concerns
7. Show leadership whatever your role is
8. Work with others to create the right culture for patient safety