



## Partners' Update

All the latest from the Working Together Partnership Vanguard

[www.workingtogethernhs.co.uk](http://www.workingtogethernhs.co.uk)

### UK-First Technology aims to speed up cancer referrals

A UK first technology solution that is designed to speed up cancer patient referrals between NHS organisations has been piloted in hospital Trusts in South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire.

Inter-Trust messaging (ITM) has been developed thanks to the Working Together Partnership and technology data management company CIMS using their InfoFlex Cancer Management system. The partnership of Barnsley, Rotherham, Doncaster & Bassetlaw, Mid Yorks, Chesterfield and Sheffield hospitals, identified that there were significant opportunities to improve the system for referring a cancer patient from a district hospital to a specialist treatment centre.

Previously, when a patient was identified as potentially needing treatment at a specialist hospital the referring trust would input all of the patient's data into their standalone InfoFlex system and then would send a secure email to the receiving trust. The receiving trust would then have to spend time re-entering all of the data into their own infoFlex system. Often the patient data that needed to be re-entered included complex numerical systems which has the potential to be mistakenly inputted.

The Working Together partnership designed the concept, and a specialist developer joined the partnership to develop the technology to allow the Inter-Trust messaging capability and to work with the CIMS development team. The result means that once the patient data has been inputted into the system at the referring Trust, it can automatically be added to the cancer trackers worklist for the receiving trust's Multi-disciplinary Teams to consider the best course of treatment for the patient.



### £320k saving on Surgical Gloves

Following the successful Working Together procurement for examination gloves, which saved the seven Working Together Trusts £400k in 2014, a new exercise covering surgical gloves is now set to save more than £320k across the region.

Clinicians were heavily involved in the procurement exercise to ensure a solution was reached that offered an achievable saving and did not diminish quality in any way.

Ansell Healthcare, the world's largest global manufacturer of surgical gloves were the selected supplier and are now working with each of the Trusts to establish which of their range of gloves are best for each surgeon's requirements.



Prior to this procurement a total of 47 different types of gloves were used across the Working Together Trusts, many with similar specifications but very varied prices.

The implementation will be staged across the individual Trusts according to each Trust's requirements.

In October, the Inter-Trust system was piloted for referrals of patients requiring lung and thoracic cancer treatment. The pilot was successful, and a second pilot will take place in November across more cancer specialties. The aim is then for a roll-out to all the remaining cancer tumour groups including specialist services early December.

## Maximising best practice across clinical and non-clinical support services

The Working Together Partnership Trusts are very fortunate to have some excellent clinical and non-clinical support services and in many areas they have been national leaders in innovating new ways of working.

Over the last 3 years, through the Working Together Programme, South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Trusts have been working in partnership on a range of collaborative activities which includes best practice as well as some consolidation initiatives developed organically across the services. The approach has focused on engaging front line clinical and non-clinical staff in looking at innovative approaches to tackle common issues across the seven Trusts.

Nationally this collaborative approach is also being encouraged and in June NHS Improvement wrote to all NHS Trust Chief Executives about the potential for support services to consider how they could maximise efficient working, best practice and cost effectiveness on a regional basis.

In August NHS Improvement identified that the following services should be prioritised in the first instance to explore further opportunities: Finance; HR; Informatics; Procurement; Payroll; Estates and Facilities; Governance and Risk; Legal services

All South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Trusts are now exploring how this work will move forward and early scoping work is underway with leads for the services in individual Trusts. This will also be part of the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Sustainability and Transformation Plan. Further information will be included in the next newsletter.

### INFORMATION

#### Radiology event explores technology solution for improved partnership working

A number of radiologists, radiographers, PACS managers, IT, procurement, and finance staff from Working Together Trusts were brought together recently to form a panel to identify opportunities for a technology solution to support improved partnership working in radiology.

#### Changes to Ear, Nose & Throat out-of-hours Services go live

A Clinical Network of practitioners from Ear, Nose & Throat Services (ENT) across the region have been working together to improve cross-Trust working and more effectively manage out of hours services.

From 1<sup>st</sup> December new standardised A&E pathway guidance will be rolled out across the A&E departments so that when a patient presents at A&E with an ENT condition they receive the same response regardless of where in the region they are – be that receiving treatment there and then by an

#### Mandatory and Statutory Training Streamlining takes a step closer

The Mandatory and Statutory Training (MAST) subject leads from across the Working Together Partnership have been meeting regularly to look at

The panel have met with eight potential suppliers who felt that they could provide the required technology, and the panel could ask them questions as well as assess indicative costs and productivity benefits.

The key theme emerging from the day was that further work was needed to identify the exact scope of local requirements. More clinical engagement will now take place to help ensure the right decision is made about the required product.

A&E doctor, or being referred immediately to the consultant on call.

New standardised documentation for on-call arrangements and cross-Trust agreements are also being shared.

A new dedicated ENT surgical rota for children is also being launched, and Chesterfield is joining Sheffield Children's Trust in an on-call hub, meaning across the region we have a consistent hub model for out-of-hours ENT emergencies operating.

All affected staff are aware of the change. Only patients in Chesterfield will be affected and an information campaign is planned.

where Mandatory and Statutory Training could be streamlined (if you've done the training in one Trust and move to another, that training would be accepted across all Trusts) and standardised (the same package of training offered in each Trust).

A streamlining agreement is now being drawn up and Standardisation proposals are in development, with the aim to roll out what is agreed from April 2017.

Have your say on the Commissioners Working Together led public consultation into Children's Surgery and Anaesthesia and Hyper Acute Stroke Services [here](#)

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