



Update from North West London Cardiac Network



The North West London Cardiac Network brings together clinicians, other professionals and managers from National Health Service (NHS) organisations across NW London to work together to ensure equal access to services and the overall improved outcomes for cardiac patients.

Heart Failure

A 'Blueprint for excellence in Heart Failure Services' has been published by the West London Heart Failure group. The evidence-based document sets standards of care for patients with heart failure, building upon existing standards detailed within the CHD National Service Framework and NICE guidance. The Network will work with constituent organisations to support implementation of the key recommendations and intends to conduct a further analysis of both heart failure services and public health across NW London.

To view a copy, please visit our website www.nwlc.n.co.uk

Cardiac Arrhythmias and Sudden Death

Following a national review of cardiac pacing and device implantation rates for the years 2004 and 2005, which identified significant variation in implantation rates, the Network is undertaking a detailed review of existing services across NW London to identify gaps and investigate reasons for inconsistency. This work will identify the development of a care model to support delivery of the new NSF chapter across NW London.

Inter-Hospital Transfers

Hospitals within NW London are now starting to incorporate cardiac surgical referrals onto the web-based transfer system. Pages to support electrophysiology and device implantation are currently in development.

Cardiac Rehabilitation

Healthy Living brochures produced by the Network Cardiac rehabilitation sub-group provides general guidance to cardiac patients following discharge from hospital. Translations of these brochures into 6 widely used languages has proved popular and these have been widely distributed to both NHS and private care hospitals in NW London. Copies of these Healthy Living brochures can be downloaded from our website.

Smoke Free London

The NW London Cardiac Network hosted an initial planning meeting with Smoke Free London leads of borough councils and NHS organisations across NW London. From 1st July 2007 virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England will become smoke free. An awareness-raising programme 'Fresh as a Daisy' is planned to highlight and support implementation of

For more information on the activities of the Network, or to comment on how we can improve our communications, please visit our website: www.nwlc.n.co.uk



the 'Smoke Free' policy.

For more information, please contact:

b.kaur@nhs.net

Heart2Heart User Forum

Steve Hamilton has recently been elected as the new Chair of this group. Under his leadership, the Forum has agreed a workplan with priority areas identified for 2007. One project currently underway is a joint venture between the British Heart Foundation and the Cardiac Network.

"Hearty Voices for South Asians" is a pilot programme providing one day training for South Asian cardiac patients or their carers living within the Boroughs of Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon, Ealing and Hounslow, who wish to understand more about having a "voice" in local healthcare matters. To find out more, please contact:

kathryn.wickham@hillingdon.nhs.uk

Discovery Interviews

Discovery interviews are an effective technique used by healthcare professionals to understand patients and carers needs, and to identify areas for improvement in cardiac services. By volunteering for a discovery interview, patients will have their story audio-taped with a qualified interviewer. The story is then transcribed and all personal details removed before it is read back anonymously to clinical focus groups. Changes are considered and action plans to implement these subsequently agreed.

The NW London Cardiac Network, together with neighbouring Networks, has developed a pan-London support group to provide training and subsequent accreditation of Discovery Interviewers. For more information please contact Joanna Gardner on joanna.gardner@nhs.net

Network Events

GP Education – The NW London Cardiac Network hosted two half-day events on 13th and 14th December, covering practices in outer- and inner-NW London. Thanks to the ongoing support of many clinicians across NW London, both days offered a full programme covering topics focussed on cardiac care in the community. 89 delegates attended the events – of which 72% were GPs from across NW London. Other delegates represented practice nursing, dietetics and PCT management. Overall, evaluation of the two events was extremely positive with over 90% of delegates considering the events (and content) useful.

Further seminars focusing on the management of arrhythmias are planned for Spring 2007. In addition, the Network is also running an introductory training programme for practice/community nurses in March 2007.

And finally,

'At the Heart of It – One Year On' conference

On 31st January the Network hosted a second conference for stakeholders across NW London. The all-day event was held at a central London venue and clinicians, managers and patients alike attended. Thanks to the ongoing support received from stakeholders across the sector the event offered a full programme of Network developments and new technologies, and attracted over 160 delegates. Subsequent evaluation of the event indicates that the conference was well received by all delegates. Our thanks go to the unfailing support of speakers both from NW London and beyond, who helped make the day a success.