



# IMPROVING PATIENT SAFETY

We deliver the national Patient Safety Collaborative programme in the North West Coast, in collaboration with the AHSN Network and NHS Improvement. The focus has been on three areas: early identification of deterioration; maternal and neonatal health safety; and a culture of continuous improvement. In addition, we help to introduce and spread innovations which improve patient safety.

## NATIONAL EARLY WARNING SCORE FOR ACUTE ILLNESS

All acute hospital trusts in the North West Coast will be using NEWS2 by summer 2019. This is the latest version of the National Early Warning Score (NEWS), an approach to standardising the assessment of, and response to, acute illness. It consists of a scoring system based on a number of simple criteria which helps improve the detection of clinical deterioration in patients.

One of the trusts that has successfully implemented NEWS2, Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, has been working with the Innovation Agency. Rachael Browning, Assistant Chief Nurse for Clinical Effectiveness, said: "Having the support of the Innovation Agency when we implemented NEWS2 was great. They helped us raise the profile of the Trust and provided a platform for us to share the resources we have produced to support other organisations.

"This didn't just happen on a local level – Warrington and Halton Hospitals received national recognition when we presented on the NHS Improvement webinar and more recently when the trust was included in the Royal College of Physicians and NHS England implementation resource for NEWS2."

Endorsed by NHS England and NHS Improvement for use in acute and ambulance settings, the implementation of NEWS2 is being facilitated across England through the 15 Patient Safety Collaboratives (PSCs), which are managed and delivered by the AHSNs.

The aim is for NEWS2 to become the 'common language' for communicating patient deterioration across the whole system and its use is now being explored in out-of-hospital settings.



Celebrating NEWS2 at Warrington and Halton Hospitals

## COLLABORATING TO IMPROVE MATERNAL AND NEONATAL HEALTH

**A vibrant local learning set for maternity and neonatal health teams is now well established, in partnership with the Strategic Clinical Network (Maternity), the Operational Delivery Network (Neonatal) and both Local Maternity Systems in the North West Coast.**

Local teams have all agreed to work collaboratively with us to deliver PReCePT – see right - and in February we started to work at system level to reduce smoking in pregnancy.

This is part of our national Patient Safety Collaborative programme in which we aim to provide a high-quality healthcare experience for all women, babies and families by improving safety and reducing unwarranted variation in care.

Trusts in the North West Coast are actively collaborating to use quality improvement techniques to help them improve services for women and their families. We will be working alongside trusts, public health and commissioning colleagues over the coming year to help them tackle some of their challenges and move forward as a region.

Our team has supported eight trusts with their safety culture surveys, helping with training, understanding results and debriefing staff. This is ongoing work with more trusts to follow.



Participants in a local learning set



## PROTECTING BABIES FROM CEREBRAL PALSY

**The routine administration of magnesium sulphate to women in pre-term labour below 30 weeks is the focus of our Preventing Cerebral Palsy in PreTerm labour (PReCePT) programme.**

This is a national AHSN Network programme and our aim in the North West is to ensure that 95 per cent of eligible mothers receive magnesium sulphate by the end of 2019. Magnesium sulphate protects pre-term babies' brains from damage and so helps prevent cerebral palsy.

We are leading a joint project with Health Innovation Manchester and the North West Neonatal and Maternity Clinical Networks across the region, supported by obstetric and neonatal clinical leads.

We train the midwife leads in each maternity unit in the clinical science aspects of the project, and in Quality Improvement techniques.

The project is based on proven methodology developed by the West of England AHSN and complements our local Maternal and Neonatal Health Safety Collaborative learning sessions.

The work reached the midway point at March 2019, when there was already an improvement in the percentage of mothers receiving magnesium sulphate.



## WORKING TOGETHER TO ESCAPE-PAIN

**A rehabilitation programme for people with chronic pain is helping hundreds of people in the North West Coast to improve their mobility and general wellbeing.**

ESCAPE-Pain (Enabling Self-management and Coping with Arthritic Pain using Exercise) is being spread in our region through the Innovation Agency and nationally through the AHSN Network as one of our key innovations for large scale adoption.

It is a six-week course that combines simple education and coping strategies with an exercise programme tailored for each person.

The initiative is delivering ESCAPE-Pain sessions with trained physiotherapists and fitness instructors to patients in community leisure centres, taking people out of the healthcare environment and into the community.

Mike Moat, an osteoarthritis patient from St Helens, said: "I've noticed increased strength in my body from the sessions. I've always been active but it's improved my core strength – my strength is starting to come back again. I can tackle things better, I'm less apprehensive.

"It also takes a bit of stress out of life because it's a physical outlet, and when I hear other participants' problems it helps me put things in perspective. I think it's useful for helping people overcome isolation or loneliness.

"It's probably delayed my need for a knee replacement. At first I thought it was just a cost saving exercise, but my outlook has changed."

Keira-lea Atherton, Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles Wellbeing Instructor, said: "Working closely with local residents on this programme has meant I've been able to witness first-hand the incredible transformation each person goes through. It's had a wonderful social benefit to participants too; many have made new friends through the programme, socialising alongside light exercise. We have also seen more people continuing with exercise once the programme has completed which is fantastic!"

By Spring 2019 there were 11 organisations delivering the programme across 23 sites and it continues to be spread.

Used by

23  
sites

