



Dear colleagues

We are conscious that you have not received a bulletin from the trust for a few months now. A decision was taken in March to include our updates in the Northumberland and North Tyneside CCG GP bulletins, as the information we had to share with you was mostly Covid-19 related. We are always mindful about how many emails and how much information you receive.

We think the time is right to begin sending our trust bulletins again, and are always keen to hear about any information you would find useful for us to include. Please email cara.charlton@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk with any suggestions. We want this bulletin to be as informative and useful as it can be.

A new feature we are going to include is a series of videos which include a question and answer session with some of our consultants. In the hot seat in this bulletin is one of our consultant colorectal surgeons, Iain McCallum. We hope you find the interview informative.

As many of you may be aware, the Ciix app and website are no longer live as the platform wasn't being used by primary care. To replace this, we are going to develop an area on our trust website which is specifically for GP practice colleagues. We will keep you updated on the progress of this.

And lastly from me, you will have received a save-the-date for our first ever virtual GP excellence event on Thursday 15 October, between 9am and 1pm. We have had to change the date of this event, and it will now take place on **Thursday 19 November** between **9.00am and 2.00pm**. Further details, including the event programme and registration link, is included further down in this bulletin. We look forward to seeing you there!

Dr Alistair Blair

Medical Director

Your continued professional development: virtual GP excellence event

As mentioned in the introduction, our virtual GP excellence event is to be held on Thursday 19 November, between 9am and 2pm.

The event will be very different to previous ones as a result of Covid-19, but we hope that it will still be as worthwhile and enjoyable as previous events. We know it is quite a while to be on a Zoom call, but we will ensure you have breaks and we also have some energiser sessions planned.

You can view the programme and register by visiting:

<http://www.excellencethroughcollaboration.co.uk/>.

Video Q&A session with consultant colorectal surgeon, Iain McCallum

This is a new addition to our bulletin and one that we hope you find insightful and supportive.

To watch the video Q&A session [click here](#).

We are planning to do a series of discussions with clinicians, and have a consultant chemical pathologist lined up for the next one. If there are any other specialities you would like to hear from, or you have specific topics you would like us to focus on, please email cara.charlton@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk.

North Tyneside General Hospital urgent treatment centre going live with SystmOne

On Wednesday 14 October the urgent treatment centre (UTC) at North Tyneside General Hospital will go live with SystmOne.

The deployment of SystmOne is an exciting one and will move the UTC to an electronic patient record. From this date, primary care will receive transfer of care documents (ToC) digitally, improving the speed and quality of information regarding patients seen at the UTC.

Please note duplicate paper documents will not be sent to practices. We do not expect any issues with the ToC documents, however the CCGs have been informed of the go live date and are happy to assist any practices with SystmOne or EMIS configuration matters.

Sleep Clinics

We are trying to improve the pathway for patients referred to sleep clinics.

The aims are to reduce waiting times for investigation and appointments, and the number of appointments needed. This will be done by directing patients straight to having a test, where appropriate.

The more information we have at the time of accepting a referral, the better we can direct patients down the appropriate pathway.

You can help us by please providing as much information as you can in the referral form, in addition to your free text referral letter. This will help us to improve the pathway for our patients. Please find attached two versions of the sleep referral form. The S1 version that any S1 practice can use and a word version.

We appreciate your support.

Referral form - S1 version

Referral form - word version

Update: potential arterial fibrillation patients

If you suspect a patient has new onset arterial fibrillation, and is clinically unstable, please discuss them with ambulatory care who will advise if they or our emergency department need to see them.

If you suspect a patient has new onset arterial fibrillation, and is clinically unstable, please discuss them with ambulatory care who will advise if they or our emergency department need to see them.

If you suspect a patient has new onset or incidentally found arterial fibrillation, and is clinically stable, please arrange an Alive Cor ECG where possible. If this confirms arterial fibrillation, and secondary causes of arterial fibrillation have been excluded, please initiate anticoagulation as guided by CHA2DS2VAsC and HAS-BLED score.

If a 12 lead ECG is requested as an alternative, it adds little to the information from the single lead or six lead Alive Cor tracing with regards to the diagnosis of arterial fibrillation. The wait is likely to be around two weeks for urgent referrals.

Please see the table below for further information.

Diagnostic accuracy of pulse palpation for detecting atrial fibrillation

Diagnostic accuracy	Age 65-;74 years	Age 75+ years
Sensitivity	100% (54 to 100)	95% (75 to 100)
Specificity	79% (74 to 84)	71% (65 to 77)

Diagnostic accuracy	Age 65-;74 years	Age 75+ years
Positive predictive value	12% (4 to 23)	23% (14 to 34)
Negative predictive value	100% (98 to 100)	99% (96 to 100)

All values are percentages with 95% confidence intervals. These values are for men; however, the values for women are similar.

Data from: [NICE, 2014b]

Covid-19 update

As positive cases across North Tyneside and Northumberland and hospital admissions rise, the trust has now put the relevant escalation and emergency plans in place.

If you have a query or if there is something that you would like to be included in future editions of this newsletter please email cara.charlton@northumbria.nhs.uk