



NHS West Midlands and
Shropshire and Staffordshire Heart and Stroke
Network



Telemedicine for Acute Stroke update. Bulletin 3

Aug / Sept 2011

Welcome to the third edition of the IT ***NewsExchange***: aiming to ensure that people involved in the network have accurate, up-to-the-minute information about the latest issues, developments, news and events.

To tell us about something that you want us to know about [email us](#)

New website for SSSHN

Shropshire & Staffordshire Heart & Stroke Network are now represented on the NHS Networks website – this site will serve as an intermediate webpage while our brand new website is in development. Click the link to visit the site:

[Shropshire and Staffordshire Heart and Stroke Network NHS Networks website](#)

We're keen to hear your feedback, so why not take a look and [get in touch](#). Don't forget to register on the site!

Who is involved in project?

The stakeholder trusts that are currently involved in the Telemedicine project are
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust
The Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust
Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

News item updates

Telemedicine system

Shropshire and Staffordshire Heart and Stroke Network have been closely working with host providers for the telemedicine service – The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust and South Staffordshire Health Informatics Service to procure the system that will deliver telemedicine. The tender returns were all received in August and the process of reviewing was completed at the beginning of September. The preferred supplier will be Virgin Media in conjunction with Cisco.

Virgin have supplied a similar telemedicine system for acute stroke within Cumbria and Lancashire Cardiac and Stroke Network recently and in addition Cisco have been involved with supply to Yorkshire and Humber Cardiac and Stroke Network with their telemedicine equipment. A plan is in place to start purchasing the system and installing it within the stakeholder trusts during October.

Patient Experience

Patient feedback and information for the Telemedicine system has been developed with the Telemedicine Stakeholder Group and has been led by [Paula Wells](#), Shropshire & Staffordshire Heart & Stroke Network Patient & Public Involvement lead. The information leaflet and experience survey has been reviewed by the stakeholders within the project and is ready to pilot once the system goes live. The results of the survey will be collated by the administrator for the telemedicine project

Network wide thrombolysis rota

At the beginning of February 2011, Dr Indira Natarajan and the Heart & Stroke Network were successful in implementing an on call rota to provide consultant cover for out of hour thrombolysis decisions. The rota provides support for University Hospital of North Staffs and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals. It is anticipated that Burton Hospitals will operate a 24 hour thrombolysis service in the near future. There are 14 consultants on the rota. A lead consultant has been assisting in the recruitment of doctors for the rota in each trust.

The lead consultants are;

Dr Robert Campbell – The Shrewsbury & Telford Hospital NHS Trust

Dr Bhaskar Mukherjee – Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Indira Natarajan – University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust

The on call consultants have a variety of specialist backgrounds such as neurology or elderly care but all have a common interest in delivering thrombolysis in acute stroke. They have also helped in the identification of doctors who require thrombolysis training in each trust.

The rota has been working well and its audits demonstrate that an average of 2 – 3 calls per week occur and that approximately one of these leads to thrombolysis being delivered to a patient.

Workforce Training

The workforce requirements for telemedicine training are being finalised. It is anticipated that training will be delivered within each local thrombolysing centre. A variety of clinical staff will be trained who will be working with the telemedicine equipment. Virgin media and South Staffs Health Informatics training department will be planning the sessions for delivery at end of October and beginning of November.

Go Live date

It is anticipated that the date for going live will be end of November – beginning December. Once the system has been operating for a few weeks there will be an official launch within the media and across the Network area.