Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Cheshire and Merseyside Kidney Care Network Newsletter.

In this edition you will find updates from the Network and the latest national renal news.

**CYBERREN : REGION WIDE RENAL IT SYSTEM**

We are pleased to report that the third phase of the Implementation of the Region-wide IT system, CyberREN, recently went ‘Live’ at Royal Liverpool University Hospital with the haemodialysis team on Ward 6B. As a result, we are now ‘Live’ at Wirral, Aintree and Liverpool renal units and have access to renal information at Clatterbridge, Broadgreen, Whiston, Warrington, Waterloo, Halton and Southport dialysis units. Work in progress includes Renal Transplantation, Renal HDU, Home Therapies and lab interfaces at ‘Spoke’ hospitals.

Dr Alex Crowe, Senior Responsible Officer, thanked all superusers and staff for their willingness to facilitate the clinical use of this IT; ‘I would particularly like to thank Jo Minogue Sharp for her coordination of business change and also Aaron Edwards, Eddie Scraggs, Graham Clarke and Steve Manley for their consistent help to ensure momentum is maintained for this critical phase. The day has been considered a great success and a ground breaking advance for renal IT within the UK. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Project Team at Liverpool for their continued support with the programme of work and again look forward to pursuing the development of a single patient record to support the care of Renal patients across Cheshire and Merseyside’.

**JOINT INITIATIVE TO ADOPT THE NORTH WEST END OF LIFE CARE MODEL FOR PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED KIDNEY DISEASE**

The project aims to support people with end stage renal failure to live life as fully as possible and enable them to die with dignity in the place of their own choice. As a large scale project, it is divided into four phases:

- Assessment and prognostication of patients
- Key documentation - registers of patients, gold standards registers, advanced care planning/preferred priorities of care
- Staff training
- Effective partnership working with palliative care services
Clinicians from the three main centres are working with the Project Manager to develop appropriate systems and staff education. Azhar Muhammad - a Specialist Registrar at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, is undertaking a benchmarking exercise to ascertain current knowledge and understanding around prognostication. He will be undertaking a survey of all the main centres; the results will be invaluable as we plan for staff education and training. The content of the education programme will be developed by clinicians, ensuring that it is truly ‘fit for purpose’.

If you have any questions or wish to contribute to the project, please contact the Project Manager - Mary.jordan@warrington-pct.nhs.uk mobile: 07920691844

LAUNCH OF THE RIGHT CARE, BETTER VALUE PROGRAMME

On 12th October, a very successful Joint Education Meeting was held for just under 80 GP and nursing staff, plus invited guests, from NHS Western Cheshire & NHS Wirral on the topic of ‘Management of Chronic Kidney Disease’.

The following presentations were received:

Dr Abhi Mantgani  Primary Care Management of CKD
Dr Donal O’Donoghue  The Renal Pathway
Dr Pankaj Srivastava  Review of Stable CKD 3
Dr Alex Crowe   Referral Management
Dr Indiver Daryanani  Wirral and Cheshire Renal Service Home Therapy Team
Laura Marsh  Commissioning High Quality Efficient Kidney Care
Cathy Gritzner  Right Care, Better Value

The overlying theme was to work collaboratively to achieve quality, appropriate, value for money renal services.

The evening also saw the launch of the Right Care, Better Value project which is being led by NHS Wirral and NHS Western Cheshire. Laura Marsh explained how the rapid review of renal services had taken place - approximately 3 months to produce the report, which is pretty quick! The bottom line was to highlight that the right patient should receive the right care in the right place. Cathy Gritzner built on this presentation to demonstrate how the Right Care, Better Value project would support the outcomes of the rapid review, looking at identifying low value clinical processes to release resources for further investment. Wirral Renal Modernisation Group (which has representation from Wirral and Western Cheshire) will drive through the recommendations and test new ways of working and arrange small MDT task and finish groups to ensure an appropriate consistent approach is taken to achieve better outcomes.

The Right Care, Better Value programme will be rolled out across Wirral and Western Cheshire and then across Cheshire & Merseyside. Feedback will be reported back to Donal O’Donoghue, National Clinical Director for Kidney Care, and the Department of Health on a monthly basis.

Please contact Carol.diamond@wirral.nhs.uk for further details on the Right Care, Better Value Programme.

RENAIL TRANSPLANT UNIT CELEBRATES REFURBISHMENT

Friday 1st October was a day of celebration for the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals Trust Renal Transplant Unit as it opened its newly refurbished dedicated ward. The revamp was part of the Renal Transplant Unit’s commitment to continued investment in transplantation in Liverpool and ambitions to improve patient experience and an expansion of service.

(Pictured l-r: Lynne Sbaih, Diane Wake, Abdul Hammad, Maureen Wain, Andrew Greslow, Tony Bell)
Tony Bell, Chief Executive of the Royal Liverpool University Hospital, officially opened the new ward to staff from the Trust and 40 guests from around the region, who were all treated to a tour of the new unit. Guests also received a very interesting speech from Mr Abdul Hammad, Clinical Director for Renal Transplant, who described the history of the unit, which first opened in 1980, and its achievements to date. These achievements include the development in the newly accredited tissue typing lab and the appointment of a Consultant Clinical Immunologist. There is also improved theatre access for transplantation, which means that kidneys can be transplanted quicker, therefore reducing potential damage caused to kidneys during storage. Successful initiatives have also been introduced such as a flourishing live related donor programme, non-heart beating programme, new ABO incompatible programme and de-sensitisation programme.

Speaking at the refurbishment, Tony Bell said “When Mr Hammad and I first met and discussed the refurbishment, our vision was to create a world leading transplant unit with a first class service to patients and I believe we have achieved that. The ward looks great and is now able to offer a range of practices at a world class level. The refurbishment project and development of the immunology programmes have been a real personal journey for Mr Hammad and his team, and I’d like, once again, to thank everybody involved. You are a credit to your professions and the NHS.”

A record number of 95 renal transplants were carried out in 2009/10 whilst targets are set to supersede this number in 2010/2011.

**HOME DIALYSIS CONFERENCE**

**Third Annual Symposium on Home Dialysis**

The Third Annual Symposium on Home Dialysis was held on 14th and 15th October in Manchester. A number of relevant staff from around the Network attended the meeting.

Key topics included:

- Advances in Home Therapies
- Implementing Home Therapies
- Setting up a home haemodialysis programme
- Technical forum
- Home dialysis finances explained (PbR, CQUIN...)
- Industry Display
- Progress from UK centres
- Identifying patients for home dialysis
- Carer Perspective
- Future Research directions
- Practical workshops

Each session allowed opportunities for questions and general discussion.

**KEY QUESTIONS ON CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE**

Pulse Magazine has recently published an article by Dr Alex Crowe and Dr Yaser Shah who answer some of GP Dr Pam Brown’s key questions on chronic kidney disease, including questions on imaging, blood-pressure goals, vitamin D and nephrotoxic drugs. The article can be found online. Register your details for free to view the article at: [http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=50&storycode=4127203](http://www.pulsetoday.co.uk/story.asp?sectioncode=50&storycode=4127203).

**HOSPITAL HAEMODIALYSIS PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICES**

Effective transport for hospital haemodialysis patients is a very important part of their care. The number of people requiring dialysis, and therefore transport, is projected to significantly increase each year for at least the next decade. It is, therefore, important that renal services and transport providers work together to prepare to meet these patients’ needs.

As a result of recent work involving kidney patients and carers, staff from renal units, North West Ambulance Service and commissioners, a new, improved process has been developed across the North West to review transport needs and requirements with hospital haemodialysis patients.
The new, standardised process will ensure that haemodialysis units are aware of every patient who requires transport to and from hospital haemodialysis for medical reasons, and how appropriate transport can be arranged. Where patients are well enough, and their social circumstances and distance to their dialysis unit will allow, the new process will offer patients the chance to explore other options for getting to and from dialysis. This will allow patients to benefit from having more independence and choice regarding their transport arrangements.

Patients, their families and carers, should be reassured that the new process will ensure that all patients who require transport services to and from hospital haemodialysis for medical reasons, or who would be unable to attend dialysis without transport services, will have access to transport.

A number of events have been arranged at local haemodialysis units to offer patients, their families and carers, the opportunity to learn more about the new patient transport services contract and changes to the eligibility criteria process. The next session is being held on Thursday 4th November, 9am - 12 noon in the Clinical Sciences Centre at University Hospital Aintree.

Please contact laura.mitchell@nwsct.nhs.uk if you are interested in attending this session or would like more information on the work.

FOR THE BEST’ THEATRE PRODUCTION – TUESDAY 16 – SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER

Unity Theatre present a site-specific show housed on the fourth floor of the historic Gostin Building in the heart of Liverpool One. “For The Best” has been created over five months with patients attending Royal Liverpool University Hospital, their families, artists and performers. Beautiful, fragile and multi-layered, this is an imaginative journey through a family's experience of living with chronic illness.

Find out more and book tickets at www.unitytheatreliverpool.co.uk

If you'd like to help support For The Best with flyers or posters please contact samfreeman@unitytheatre.co.uk

MERSEY REGIONAL KIDNEY PATIENT SUPPORT GROUP

Mersey Regional Kidney Patient Support Group have 2 up-coming events. A Quiz Night is being held on 12th November at 8pm at Riverside Police Club in Aigburth. There will also be a children’s party on 28th November, from 1pm - 5pm at St Anthony of Padua in Mossley Hill. Please contact Kim Webb for further details on 07746 570116.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Hannah Hague and her family on the safe arrival of their new little boy, Finley George, on 9th October.

GREEN NEPHROLOGY

Please find below the latest update from the Green Nephrology Team.

Green Nephrology Summit 2010

You can now download the summit report from the September event in Birmingham, which contains presentation slides, case studies and webinar recordings from the day. Download the summit report.

GOSH Polar Bear

Children on dialysis at Great Ormond Street Hospital have made a polar bear out of waste packaging from their medical equipment to demonstrate how the healthcare industry needs to think about the amount of waste it produces. Read more here.
Green Stars! Kidney units are rated by their green credentials
A new ‘Green Stars’ initiative has been launched in Green Nephrology. In future, kidney units will be awarded up to 4 stars for: nomination of a staff green rep / nomination of a patient rep / green action plan / contribution of case studies. Download the results.

Green Entries Invited to BJRM Innovation Awards
The BJRM Editorial Board, organisers of the ‘Innovation in Renal Medicine Awards’, are particularly interested in entries that are finding ways to make renal medicine greener... A £5000 prize is offered to the winning entry - closing date 17 Dec 2010.

Date for Diaries: RSM Green Telemedicine Meeting 11 March 2011
The Nephrology Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and the Campaign for Greener Healthcare are organising a meeting on Friday March 11 2011 entitled 'Remote monitoring and telecommunications - safeguarding patients and the environment' to highlight the emerging role of remote monitoring and telecare in medicine, and particularly nephrology.

Welcome to the New Green Nephrology Fellow
Tara Collidge will be taking up the role of Green Nephrology Fellow 2010-11. Tara is a final year SpR in Glasgow, and will remain based in the Glasgow kidney unit during the six-month fellowship, which starts in November. Tara comes highly recommended and full of ideas and useful projects - she is clearly going to be a huge asset to the programme.

UPDATE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF RENAL TECHNOLOGISTS NATIONAL MEETING

The Association of Renal Technologists held their National Meeting on 7th and 8th October. Talks were given on four main subjects, Green issues, Disaster relief, Chlorine and Electrical safety.

The first session covered the issue of carbon footprinting, looking specifically at energies that are used in connection with dialysis, whether any changes could be made which would reduce the carbon footprint, e.g. manufacturing and disposal of dialysis products, and whether there is an acceptable alternative, such as chemicals or replacements, or even disposables.

An enlightening talk was given on Disaster Relief, which reflected on the needs of renal patients when disaster occurs.

There was a talk given on Chlorine/Chloramines removal in raw water using different types of carbon filtration and testing for the presence of.

A talk was also given which looked at the progression to registration for Renal Technologists. This is still an ongoing process.

NHS KIDNEY CARE URGES SERVICE PROVIDERS TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO HOME DIALYSIS

NHS Kidney Care has launched a new report and two short films that highlight the personal stories of home dialysis patients, in a bid to increase the numbers of patients who are given the option to dialyse at home.

Download: Improving Choice: Listening to Patient Stories: Report
Download: Press release
To view the films, click on the images opposite.
PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF BLOOD-BORNE VIRUS INFECTION

The Department of Health have recently published good practice recommendations for the prevention and control of blood-borne virus infection, specifically for patients dialysing away from base.

For more information: Visit the Department of Health website

KEEPING UP TO DATE WITH THE LATEST NATIONAL NHS AND KIDNEY NEWS

The October issue of Kidney Care Matters, the online newsletter from NHS Kidney Care, is now available. The issue is full of the latest news in kidney care, including the launch by NHS Kidney Care of a new primary care resource, as well as details of the first NICE quality standards on chronic kidney disease, which is now open for consultation.

Please also have a look at the latest news from Donal O'Donoghue via the Renal Tsar's Blog. Topics raised this month are:

- Growth rate slows to single figures
- Q&A: Our son has kidney disease, what should we do?
- Q&A: Improving Choice
- I can't get no .... satisfaction
- Listen to the patients
- Bad medicine or an opportunity to integrate
- Countdown to the patient transport survey: one week to go
- Quality Standard for CKD
- Recovery, rehabilitation and reablement

Don’t forget you can get all the up-to-date NHS news through The Department of Health Publications, The Week and The Month.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

NCEPOD Report: Elective & Emergency Surgery in the Elderly
Publication date: 11th November 2010
NCEPOD will be publishing a report into the care of elderly patients undergoing surgery. As part of this report there will be a short section on post-operative AKI (causes and consequences).
More information: NCEPOD Report

BMJ Master class for GPs: Cardiology, Diabetes and CKD
Wednesday 24th November 2010 : Holiday Inn Centre, Birmingham
This evidence based course will help busy GPs and nurses stay on top of the latest advances in cardiology, diabetes and chronic kidney disease. More information: BMJ Masterclasses
**Peritoneal Dialysis Research Day**  
**Tuesday 18th January 2011 : Medical Education Centre, Northern General Hospital, Sheffield**  
Themes for the day include:  
- The Patient experience of dialysis and modality choice  
- A call for abstracts for PD research - completed or in progress from the UK  
- Research in progress into Encapsulating Peritoneal Sclerosis  
More information and PHD abstracts to: Louise Dunn

**BRS / RA Conference**  
**6th - 9th June 2011 : ICC Birmingham**  
The theme of the conference will be ‘Sharing knowledge and experience to accelerate improvement in kidney care’. More information can be found on BRS Website

Please see NHS Kidney Care for further information on National Conferences.

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**CONTACT DETAILS**

If you would like copies of any documents mentioned in this issue of Network News, or if you would like to share any examples of good practice via this newsletter, please contact either:

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Adrienne.betteley@mccn.nhs.uk

Debbie Moores, Network Co-ordinator  
debbie.moores@wirral.nhs.uk

**USEFUL WEBSITE LINKS**

- Wirral and Chester Kidney Services  
  [http://www.wirralchesterkidney.nhs.uk](http://www.wirralchesterkidney.nhs.uk)

- Mersey Renal Units  
  [http://www.merseyrenalunits.nhs.uk](http://www.merseyrenalunits.nhs.uk)

- Aintree Renal Unit  
  [www.aintreerenalunit.nhs.uk](http://www.aintreerenalunit.nhs.uk)

- Liverpool Renal Unit  

- British Renal Society  
  [http://www.britishrenal.org](http://www.britishrenal.org)

- National Kidney Federation  

- Renal Association  

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**Attachments**

| 1 | NHS Kidney Care Press Release - New scheme rewards kidney services for green endeavours |