

Joint Working

Executive Summary

Project title	Atrial Fibrillation nurse led clinic for primary & secondary care patients at Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Project partners	Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Start date	March 2021 – August 2022

Project summary

This pilot project aims to manage uncontrolled/problematic symptomatic patients referred by GPs. This will support stroke prevention and treatment as well as facilitate early discharge and prevent admissions and support the implementation of the atrial fibrillation (AF) strategy - Protect gap. This project will involve a part time atrial fibrillation advanced nurse practitioner running dedicated atrial fibrillation clinics within the Trust. It will be a weekly nurse led clinic supported by a consultant cardiologist over an 18 month period.

The clinic will:

1. Facilitate and expedite the diagnosis and management of new onset AF available to primary and secondary care and ensure they are appropriately anticoagulated .This will provide GP's the facility to refer patients with a new diagnosis of AF
2. Assess success of treatment within 4 weeks and optimize where necessary
3. Assist in early discharge of patients by providing prompt follow up thereby reducing length of stay (LOS)
4. Support the existing cardioversion service
5. Identify patients suitable for AF ablation and referral to tertiary Unit Liverpool or Manchester

Once the clinic is established the cardiology department aims to offer a rapid access service to primary care and HOT (Hospitals Outpatient Treatments) clinic to secondary care.

Expected benefits to patients and the NHS & Daiichi-Sankyo

Expected Benefits for the Patient:

- Ensure timely diagnosis and treatment of AF patients
- Dedicates time for patients to be correctly counselled and educated
- Reduce length of stay
- Aid in Stroke prevention by appropriate anticoagulation
- Improve symptom control and quality of life
- Improve patient satisfaction

Expected Benefits for NHS:

- Improved health care outcomes
- Improve LOS/length of stay with its associated financial benefit
- Reduce stroke rate
- Reduce pressure on emergency department
- Reduce service pressures for cardiology, A&E and Primary care

Expected Benefits for Daiichi-Sankyo UK:

- Improve management and treatment of patients with atrial fibrillation by working in partnership with the NHS
- Improve Daiichi-Sankyo's reputational profile amongst local and national stakeholders and expand its joint working portfolio
- Create more opportunities for the appropriate use of Direct Oral Anticoagulants, including Daiichi-Sankyo UK's medicines in appropriate patients in line with local treatment guidelines. If this improvement occurs, we are likely to see an increase in DOAC prescriptions
- Journal publication and associated publicity likely resulting in future collaborations and subsequent raise in profile of Daiichi-Sankyo