



Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Clinical Networks

Yorkshire and the Humber Stroke Network News

Issue 1

September 2015

Welcome!

Welcome to Issue 1 of the Yorkshire and the Humber Stroke Network News for 2015.

This e-bulletin aims to provide a focus on national and regional developments in stroke care and supports the sharing of research, advice and best practice across Yorkshire and the Humber. Additionally, this e-bulletin aims to highlight upcoming dates of importance and encourages staff and patients across the region to become involved in shaping the future of stroke care.

If you have any ideas for improvements or suggestions for content in future editions please get in touch via our contacts details, which can be found [here](#).

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Yorkshire and the Humber SCN Update

The Yorkshire and the Humber Stroke Clinical Network, part of the Cardiovascular Disease Strategic Clinical Network, was formed in April 2013. Dr John Bamford, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LTHT) is the Network Clinical Lead.

Stroke remains a priority across the region and the Clinical Network aims to bring together those who use, provide and commission stroke services in order to make improvements in outcomes for the patient pathway, and to ensure quality and equity of stroke care.

A particular focus over the past year has been a review of Hyper-Acute Stroke Services. Each of the three sub regions of Yorkshire and the Humber identified the need to undertake an assurance review to ascertain the resilience of their current Hyper-Acute Stroke Services (HASS) model.

This need reflected the opportunities for improvement highlighted by the Stroke Sentinel National Audit Programme (SSNAP) and the challenges that some acute hospitals have faced in the delivery of acute stroke services (e.g. 24/7 thrombolysis). The review was mandated by the Yorkshire and Humber Chief Officers and delivered through existing sub regional governing and accountability arrangements.

The Stroke Clinical Network has agreed to focus on the following areas to support the work across Y&H:

- Business Continuity / Resilience
- Benchmarking / Data Sharing
- Workforce
- Repatriation Process
- Standards for Providers

In addition, the SCN continues to determine how best to support work on ESD given limited resources.

There will be a Yorkshire & the Humber Stroke Clinical Expert Group (by Webex) at 5pm on Wednesday 7th October to discuss these and other developments across the region.

Stroke Self-Assessment Process 2015

The Yorkshire & the Humber Strategic Clinical Network has recommended to CCGs that the self-assessment process, which was agreed by CCGs and commenced last year, is continued for 2015. However, due to financial challenges within the system it has been proposed that the on-line system is not utilised. We are awaiting confirmation that the CCGs are happy with this approach, but wanted to update you in the meantime.

The intention is for Trusts to provide a refreshed Annual Report, and an update on the Action Plans submitted in 2014. In addition, workforce levels will be requested.

SSNAP data will continue to be reviewed.

The following timeline is proposed:

Action	Date
Providers to submit updated Action Plan, Annual Report & Workforce Data	30 th November 2015
SCN Review of Submissions	1 st December – 11 th January 2015
Feedback by SCN to CCGs	By 15 th January 2015
Feedback by CCGs to Trusts	By 12 th February 2015

Use of Alteplase in the Treatment of Ischaemic Stroke: Independent Expert Review

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has published [Summary of the conclusions of the Expert Working Group of the Commission on Human Medicines on alteplase](#).

The review considered the latest data on the benefits and risks of alteplase in strokes, and concluded that:

- the benefit of using alteplase outweighs the risk when used up to 4.5 hours after the onset of symptoms in accordance with the licence
- the benefit of alteplase in the treatment of stroke is highly time-dependent and therefore minimising the time to the start of treatment is critical to ensuring the best possible outcome
- the latest available data strengthen the existing evidence base for the current authorised use of alteplase

For more information please see the [MHRA press release](#).

NICE Quality Standard: Atrial Fibrillation & Recommendation of Anticoagulants

NICE has published a Quality Standard on [Atrial fibrillation: treatment and management \(QS93\)](#). The quality standard covers identification, treatment and management of atrial fibrillation (including paroxysmal, persistent and permanent atrial fibrillation, and atrial flutter) in adults.

The quality standard also recommends that for patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) who have a CHA2DS2-VASC stroke risk score of 2 or above are offered newer anticoagulants, such as apixaban, dabigatran etexilate, rivaroxaban or a vitamin K antagonist like warfarin in place of aspirin.

For further information on anticoagulants for stroke prevention please click [here](#).

NICE Quality Standard: Consultation on Stroke Update

NICE are currently developing an update on their quality standard on Stroke. Thus far NICE have published a topic overview for this quality standard, describing core elements of the standard, on the NICE website.

From Monday 7 September 2015 a consultation on the draft quality standard will open for comment with a closing date of 5 October 2015. To read the draft standard and comment on the consultation please click [here](#).

Sentinel Stroke National Audit Results

The Royal College of Physicians has published the ninth report from the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP). These standards have been set to encourage hospitals to both identify where improvements are needed and drive change. The report relates to patients admitted between January and March 2015 and includes named hospital results for the entire inpatient care pathway. To read the report in full click [here](#).

Self Help 4 Stroke

Self Help 4 Stroke is a newly launched website for people living with stroke after their formal rehabilitation has finished. The content of the website was written by stroke specialists and former patients had significant input into the development of every aspect of the website. The site offers advice, practical tips and film clips to help people through their post stroke journey. Check out the website here: www.selfhelp4stroke.org.

Upcoming Events

- Thursday 24 September 2015, 09:00-16:00, **An Educational Meeting for South Yorkshire Health Professionals Involved in Stroke Care**, The Source Skills Academy, 300 Meadowhall Way, Sheffield, S9 1EA

A **FREE** educational meeting for South Yorkshire Health Professionals involved in Stroke Care in primary and secondary care.

To view the programme for the day please click [here](#). To register for a place please email [Cherie Dennison](mailto:Cherie.Dennison).

- Wednesday 30 September 2015, 08:30-16:30, **Hyperacute Stroke Care: A new Era?** Westleigh Conference Centre, University of Central Lancashire, Preston.

To view the event flyer please click [here](#). To view the programme for the day please click [here](#).

To register for a place please email cpruenquiries@uclan.ac.uk.

- Thursday 8th October 2015 1600-2045, **Stroke Education Meeting & Regional Stroke Specialty Meeting**, St James's Hospital, Leeds.

There is a meeting for Stroke Physicians 16.00-18.00 - Open to stroke physicians across Yorkshire & the Humber, and any juniors. To view the programme please click [here](#).

Followed by the Regional Stroke Specialty meeting 18.45-20.45 - this is open to all colleagues in the Stroke Community, therefore all of the Stroke MDT - physicians, physios, OT, SALT, Research Nurses, Nurses etc

Free to attend and refreshments will be available between the meetings.

- Friday 6th November 2015, 13:30-18:00, **Advanced Diagnostic Imaging for Stroke Therapies**, Hilton Double Tree Hotel, Leeds.

The event is **FREE** to attend and aims to provide education and training for stroke physicians in stroke imaging.

To view the provisional programme for the day click [here](#). To register for a place please email [Claire Kipling](mailto:Claire.Kipling). Note that this date is rearranged from 25th September (updated programme awaited).

Contacts

If you would like to discuss any of the items included in this e-bulletin or would like further information about the Stroke Network please contact:

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Links and Partner Organisations

- AF Association. Click [here](#) for the website.
- Arrhythmia Alliance. Click [here](#) for the website.
- Stroke Association. Click [here](#) for the website.
- NHS Improving Quality. Click [here](#) for the website.
- Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Clinical Networks. Click [here](#) for the website.
- Yorkshire and the Humber Clinical Senate. Click [here](#) for the website.
- Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network. Click [here](#) for the website.

Request for Links: If you would like to feature a web link in this bulletin, or provide information as a Partner Organisation, please email details to sarah.boul@nhs.net with the words "Links and Partner Organisations" in the subject line.

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