



June 2007

Sharing Information Cross Border to Improve Diabetes Care

The Sharing Information Cross Border to Improve Diabetes Care in hospital project started in January 2007. The project aims to integrate and collate information from hospital diabetes databases in Northern Ireland and the CAWT region and support the cross border development of diabetes services.

What is CAWT?

CAWT (Cooperation and Working Together) is a cross border partnership, formed in 1992 when the North Eastern and North Western Health Boards in the Republic of Ireland and the Southern and Western Health and Social Services Boards in Northern Ireland agreed to cooperate to improve the health and social wellbeing of their populations. CAWT comprises the WHSSB, SHSSB and the border Health and Social Care Trusts along with the border counties of the HSE West and HSE Dublin North East. CAWT is funded by the EU INTERREG IIIA Programme in association with the Department of Social Services and Public Safety in Northern Ireland and the Department of Health and Children in the Republic of Ireland. CAWT manages a range of cross border, European funded initiatives, which are directly benefiting border communities.

Project Objectives

1. To facilitate the development of a cross border strategic alliance to improve diabetes services for the people in the INTERREG region.
2. To establish a cross border network on clinical diabetic information systems.
3. To provide continued support for the sharing and utilisation of information from the computerised hospital diabetic clinical information systems.
4. Complete an audit and write a report on the health of people with diabetes attending hospital clinics.
5. Identify areas for targeted action based on the findings of the audit.
6. Explore opportunities to enhance the transfer of information to Primary Care.

The project will help to devise strategies for the development and management of systematic care for people with diabetes in the INTERREG region. The appointment of Data/Project Manager Peter Mellor will facilitate linking hospital diabetes clinical information systems as part of a data warehousing project through the collation of Diamond databases from all hospital sites in Northern Ireland and the CAWT region of the Republic of Ireland. This will support clinical audit and lead to quality improvement in diabetes care.

Why Use Clinical Databases?

Clinical databases such as Diamond, properly used, have the potential to improve the quality of care to patients. Clinical databases can assist members of the Diabetes team by:

- Providing reliable data about their practice.
- Providing up to date information about treatment outcomes.
- Providing data about the outcomes of care for hospital providers.
- Can promote patient participation in decisions about their care.
- Supporting research, evaluation and audit.
- Assisting in the planning of services.

This project will provide a baseline assessment of care provided in hospital diabetic clinics and allow comparisons between hospital sites.

Project Steering Group

The project is co-ordinated by a Project Executive and Project Board who meet every three months until the project ends in June 2008. The Project Executive comprises Dr David McCance, the Royal Victoria Hospital and Dr Brid Farrell, Southern Health and Social Services Board.

The Project Board comprises:

Dr Roy Harper, The Ulster Hospital
Dr Mae McConnell, Craigavon Hospital
Ms Jeanette Newell, Homefirst
Dr Ken Moles, Altnagelvin Hospital
Dr Chris Patterson, Queens University
Ms Lesley Hamilton, Foyle
Ms Pauline O'Hanlon, Louth County Hospital
Ms Orla Fox, Louth County Hospital
Ms Alison Campbell-Smyth, HomeFirst

The Northern Ireland Diamond User Group have given their support to the project.



Mr Peter Mellor



Dr David McCance



The Project Board

For Further Information Contact:

Peter Mellor

Tel: 078 2514 1954

Email: peter.mellor@belfasttrust.hscni.net

Web: www.cawt.com