Introduction

- Blackpool Teaching Hospitals [BTH] NHS Foundation Trust is a large district general – teaching hospital with two tertiary centres [cardiac and haematology] in north-west England.
- BTH is responsible for offering healthcare services within acute and community to a population of 440,000 [nearly 12m tourists annually].
- Futuristic model of commissioning in NHS is aimed at developing patient centred services and taking care closer to patient.
- Most hospitals in UK offer outpatient parenteral antibiotic therapy [OPAT] services from hospital / clinic based models.
- Clinical Commissioning Group [CCG] – acute – primary care have worked collaboratively in developing a very successful community based [IF] clinic based within a large primary care centre [OPAT service] – as a PILOT that offers both a CLINIC or HOME intravenous therapy based on patient’s mobility restrictions.

**COMMIT – COMMunity Home Intravenous Therapy**

- A new OPAT service has been piloted since June 2012 – till date.
- The service specifications allow 365/7-days a week 8am – 8pm working model allowing up to 40 infusions a day from clinic / home setting.
- The operational structure includes:
  - Acute hospital based:
    - Consultants: Two Microbiologists; One Infectious Diseases and One Respiratory Consultants
    - Pharmacists: Antibiotic pharmacist, ward pharmacist
    - Nurses
  - Primary care centre IV Clinic based:
    - 5 member nursing team
- Referrals to COMMIT are received from:
  - Direct GP referrals to service
  - Wards
  - A & E
  - GP – led primary care assessment unit [based in acute as an extension to the urgent care centre]
  - Diabetes foot MDT clinic
  - Community podiatrists
  - Microbiologists are the first point of contact to conduct patient suitability and assessment.
- The patient specific management plan is jointly agreed by Microbiologist – primary consultant or Microbiologist (for GP / podiatry referrals) alone.

**Methods**

- The challenges for an effective working of the services include:
  - Referral letter – for patients from acute & from primary care
  - Patient Management System
  - Patient Management Plan
  - Nursing governance assurance
  - PICC / mid line referral
  - Patient review communication
  - Patient feedback
  - Communication between acute based and community based teams and members of the entire team;
- BTH has an effective Web designing Department.
- The web designing department has worked with the COMMIT team and designed several e-tools to address these challenges [as above].

**Results**

- COMMIT [COMMunity/home Intravenous Antibiotic Therapy] service – a PILOT, has continued to refine and grow [nursing staff appointments] since its inception in mid – June 2012.
- The highlights over last 22-months include:
  - 225 patients benefited from COMMIT
  - 2599 bed days saved
  - Oldest patient: 92y old
  - Longest duration = 121 days
  - Very good – excellent patient feedback
  - Kyiv – 298 bed days saved in a month
  - Up to 20 patients benefited in a month

**E-tools:**

- Highlights:
  - These are all accessible from trust intranet page – with links using patient identifier.
  - Draws data from Patient information system
  - Completed forms are in trust approved printable format [for filing in case notes]
  - Completed forms are emailed to team members
  - Audit trail / governance requirements met
- E-referral from trust intranet page link [images 2]
- Intranet based links for COMMIT policy; patient pathway; Microbiologist – consultant – patient management plan; [image 1]
- Patient management system [located on intranet page [provided by commercial company associated with BSAC – OPAT group]
- Nine e-management plan with restricted access to roles in patient pathway [images 2-6]
  - Section 1 to be completed by primary consultant
  - Section 2 to be completed by Microbiologist
  - Section 3 to be completed by ward nurse / COMIT nurse
- In development:
  - Patient weekly review/assessment report form
  - Patient end of treatment form

**Conclusions**

- NHS trusts are amidst financially challenging times.
- There are several business cases from across various specialties for investments on new IT solutions.
- Funding is challenging, restrictive and requires prioritising.
- Good communication; governance assurance and satisfactory audit trail was crucial for our COMMIT service that has teams liaising across two sites [acute hospital & community based – primary care health centre]
- Trust Web designing department is extremely competent and has been innovative in addressing the requirements of the service.
- The extra-ordinary feat is that they have used currently available IT technology within the trust to create these excellent e-tools.

**Acknowledgement**

- The Blackpool Victoria Hospital Web Designing Department are thanked and acknowledged for these excellent developments.

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