

Communicable Diseases Annual Report Newsletter

Spring 2012



Directorate Overview

Communicable Diseases has continued as a highly successful directorate over the last 18 months. The directorate continues to over perform on targets meeting excellent standards of clinical governance in addition to fulfilling all the target performance indicators. We also remain financially stable at the end of the financial year 2010-2011.

This period has seen the successful introduction of Hospital at Night at the Hallamshire Hospital. E floor currently retains its middle grade specialty on call rota which we consider essential for the safe provision of this highly specialist service out of hours.

There have been a number of challenges during this period which relate mainly to the reconfiguration of services across the Trust. This has seen a reduction of Acute Medical Services at the Hallamshire Hospital and a reduction of Critical Care beds. We have worked hard to maintain appropriate admissions to E floor from the Medical Admissions Unit at the Northern General Hospital by increasing our Consult service there which is provided by two of our consultants (Dr Julia Greig and Dr Anne Tunbridge) and also by an Infectious Diseases Specialty Registrar.

We have recently seen the Transforming Community Services agenda with the move of provider services from the PCT into Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. This has provided us with an opportunity to explore the option for developing an integrated sexual health and HIV service by developing closer collaborations with Sheffield Contraceptive and Sexual Health Service and the Health Promotion Unit of the Centre for HIV and Sexual Health.

The directorate has also been actively involved in increasing its research activity. We have recently had a major review of our research strategy and defined 6 research themes: Viral Hepatitis; severe community infections; vaccines; HIV, sexual health and public health; OPAT and operational research. Each theme has a research lead(s) responsible for trying to increase the level of research activity across the directorate in these areas and to bring in more CLRN-badged portfolio studies, as well as commercial research. A review of the extensive amount of research activity already taking place in the directorate demonstrates that we are active across all of the translational research continuum with research activity in laboratory based studies, clinical trials, cohort studies, enhanced surveillance, epidemiology and in cost effectiveness and public health impact evaluations. We achieved Academic Directorate status in November 2011.

Dr Christine Bowman

Clinical Director for Communicable Disease
Co-lead for South Yorkshire HIV Network



HIV

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The HIV activity continues to increase. Our cohort size now exceeds 750 with patients being seen in approximately equal numbers across GU Medicine and Infectious Diseases. We have created a sub-directorate of HIV Medicine to enhance collaborative working, ensure agreed standards of care, and facilitate the financial management of this aspect of our clinical work. One new collaborative development is the establishment of a transitional clinic for teenagers with HIV infection who are moving to the adult service, led by Drs Julia Greig and Karen Rogstad. South Yorkshire HIV Network also continues to blossom. There are over 160 members from all aspects of health and social care, and the voluntary sector involved in the management of people living with HIV.

During this last 18 months a number of clinical collaborations with related specialists have been developed including collaborations with:

- Mr Paul Skinner, colorectal surgeon and clinical director for General Surgery & Dr Sue Clenton, clinical oncologist to develop pathways of care and explore research in the area of Anal Intraepithelial Neoplasia (AIN), and anal cancer.
- Prof Graham Venables (clinical director for Neurosciences) and Dr Daniel Blackburn (Clinical Fellow and Specialist Registrar in Neurology) Again this helps to facilitate better care of patients with

neurological and neurocognitive dysfunction. We are exploring research opportunities as well as pathways of care.

- Dr Arif Kwaja to establish a pathway for management of HIV related renal disease.

The Network has a very active research group. Research during the last 18 months has included the recruitment to and completion of a Phase 1/2 HIV vaccine study, funded by PepT Cell (now SEEK). This early stage trial has shown some promising results. We have also been involved in setting up of a Cancer Research UK funded Phase 1 study looking at a drug to treat Kaposi's Sarcoma in collaboration with Professor Penella Woll and Dr Robin Young from Medical Oncology. Collaboration with the Metabolic Bone Unit and Professor Eugene McClusky has enabled us to start work on some cohort studies in relation to bone dysfunction in HIV. We have completed the pilot study into the use of screening tools for Neurocognitive Dysfunction and mental health in HIV and hope to work it up for funding from Research for Patient Benefit. The directorate is also a medical research



Lay Expert Advisory Panel
LEAP launch meeting 11/11/11

centre/ INSIGHT centre for the START study and sub studies. This is an international multi-centre trial comparing immediate initiation of antiretroviral therapy in patients with high CD4 counts versus deferred therapy to the current recommended starting CD4 level of 350.

During 2011 we have worked hard in developing a Lay Expert Advisory Panel (LEAP) to enhance public and patient engagement in HIV related research and service development across the South Yorkshire HIV Network .

Continuing professional development remains a priority to support our highly qualified staff. This includes a programme of 3 Network CPD meetings per year. Highlights this year have included meetings on the theme of lymphoma and other malignancies; research and audit; public health; and neurological disease.

Steve Slack Director Centre for HIV & Sexual Health said:

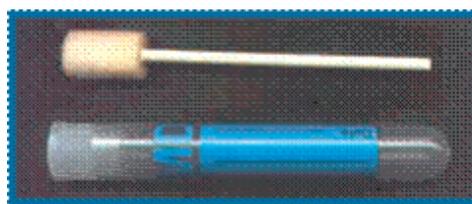
***“We have an enormous level of respect for the professionalism of staff at GUM/E-Floor and the integrity with which they deliver their services to members of the community.*”**

We work with some of the most marginalised members of our society and we regularly hear positive feedback from patients about their experience of services at GUM / E-Floor. Many people have anxieties about using sexual health services and these are consistently allayed by the expert, confidential and non-judgemental service they receive.

We have also welcomed and enjoyed our collaborative partnerships with GUM / E-Floor such as the 'Time2Test' project with Black African communities and the new LEAP initiative with patients living with HIV. These represent a high level of creativity and commitment to delivering the best possible care to patients in Sheffield. CHIV has recently transferred to Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and we hope to continue to build on this partnership with GUM / E-Floor in the future.”



Charlie Hughes
Research Nurse in Genito-Urinary Medicine



Hepatitis

Ray Poll, Nurse Consultant for Viral Hepatitis

A full-time nurse practitioner was recently appointed to meet the challenge of providing increasingly individualised and complex treatment regimens for patients often with other co-morbidities, including co-infection with HIV, chronic renal failure and mental health problems.



Ray Poll, Nurse Consultant for Viral Hepatitis (right) with patient at awareness raising roadshow

Two new forms of treatment have become available for patients with hepatitis C genotype 1 infection, with one being given on compassionate grounds to four patients who have failed previous therapy. A business case requesting use of these drugs for routine clinical care has been submitted to commissioners and a monthly treatment MDT meeting is now well established to discuss clinical cases and address management issues.

Our clinical psychologist and social worker have designed and implemented a resilience focused interview to be used in preparation for hepatitis C treatment that will provide a report to the patient and the nursing/medical team listing coping strengths and helpful motivational self statements. A research project is attached to this development that will help assess positive impacts of this initiative.

The ongoing research activity of the hepatitis service has been listed as one of the key areas for our new Academic Directorate.

Following a successful bid (£1.9 million) to the Medical Research Foundation to develop a common research database for hepatitis C across England and Scotland, Sheffield will be one of 18 collaborating centres to establish a Biobank which will provide a national resource for further basic research with the project commencing in 2011.

There has been an innovative outreach community screening programme during 2009/10 funded by a research grant from Gilead. The programme used Dried Blood Spots for sampling and was focussed on hard to reach groups. Screening took place at the Chinese community centre, Chinese church and Somali day centre. This was very well received and found a positivity rate of nine percent in those tested. The results were presented at a Gilead sponsored meeting at the Kings Fund, London, in May 2010 and as a poster at the American Association for Study of Liver Diseases meeting, Boston, November 2010. Additional funding has been acquired to extend the research to develop and evaluate educational programmes about hepatitis B in English and other languages. Programmes will be developed which are directed at both the general public and also health care workers.

A satisfaction questionnaire is offered to patients who have completed treatment for hepatitis C and feedback overall has been very positive. The social worker who runs the support group has collected and shared members' experiences of the group. It is planned that the positive accounts given by members will encourage others to attend.

Infectious Diseases

Jean Clohessy and Joanne Marsden Matrons E floor : Infection & Tropical Medicine

The Infectious Diseases ward environment has been dramatically improved over the past 18 months. Patients are benefitting from the complete refurbishment of 14 single rooms, with a further 3 currently in progress on E2 and modern assisted bathing facilities.

The department has two beds allocated to the care of patients with dermatological conditions and have appointed a Dermatology Outreach Nurse to support patients and staff on E floor and in Dermatology Outpatients Department (OPD).

Staff development with a focus on improving care remains a priority. The department has seconded a sister to participate in the Trust's work in relation to the National Patient Safety First campaign and have also developed the skills of 3 Clinical Support workers who have taken on the role of Clinical Assistants. These Assistants support doctors in evenings to improve patient care by undertaking phlebotomy, cannulation and 12 lead ECG recording.

Joanne Marsden Matron of Department of Infection and Tropical Medicine, said: "We always welcome and encourage patient feedback and we have had an excellent response to the improved facilities. We compile all patients' letters and cards to contribute to a quarterly Directorate complaints and praise report, and we have the Trust 'You Said We Did' feedback forms in all our clinical areas.. Following a successful pilot of flexible visiting on E2, this is now firmly in place on ward E2. In OPD this year we are concentrating on gathering feedback from HIV positive patients. The department rarely has complaints but when there is a complaint it is used to look at ways to improve care."

The department scored blue (areas of good practice) or green (good areas) in all aspects of the Clinical Assurance Toolkit – a method of monitoring all aspects of patient care. Six patients are interviewed every 3 months as part of this.



The team was congratulated in the Trust Infection Control report for their response to the global swine flu outbreak and their participation in opening and managing an additional flu ward.

Joanne added: "We have had a slightly challenging year with the disruption caused by the refurbishments. There has also been a recent dermatology inpatient merger but this has resulted in the integration of new staff on E floor contributing to high standards of care for patients. Despite the challenges, our length of stay and mortality rates compared favourably with other similar units in the Dr Foster figures and we have maintained an excellent level of care for our patients. However, the spirit of the department is that we are always looking to improve"

Travel Clinic E floor

The Infectious Diseases Department runs a weekly travel clinic to provide advice and vaccinations/malaria preventive therapy for staff and adult members of the public travelling to exotic locations. A highly trained and experienced team of doctors and nurses will provide a thorough evaluation of your specific travel health needs and help ensure you have a safe and healthy trip abroad.



Helen Lomas, pictured above with senior staff nurse Jenny Seaton, is just one happy customer.

Helen, aged 24, from Woodseats and her partner, Chris Hales, were confused about what vaccinations and health protection they needed but after a short visit to the Hospital's Travel Clinic they were soon on their way, worry free.

Occupation Therapist Helen said: "We were amazed at what the travel clinic could offer and we got an appointment almost straight away. We were given 45 minutes of expert advice and I felt like all my questions were answered. We also were able to have the necessary vaccines the same day at a good price and were given information to take away."

Dr Cariad Evans, Travel Health Specialist at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, said:

"We treat many patients in our Infection and Tropical Medicine department who have come back from exotic destinations with diseases such as typhoid, malaria and viral hepatitis - all of which are preventable. It is therefore very important for people to protect themselves fully and seek advice before they go away. Our friendly Clinic is conveniently located and appointments are usually available at short notice."

John's OPAT Success Story

John Hemingway, 20, is just one of hundreds of patients who has benefited from the Trust's OPAT service. The service, which is the biggest of its kind in the UK, allows patients to self-administer the intravenous drugs they need to combat infection in their own homes rather than spending weeks in hospital. In 2010 alone, it saved 3700 bed days.

Not only has the service received excellent feedback from patients, it has also reduced hospital acquired infections and saved thousands of pounds. John, who recently underwent a bone marrow transplant, needed intravenous antibiotics for an infection in the six weeks before his transplant. He was therefore delighted to be able to spend time with his family, friends and girlfriend before his intensive treatment started.

He said:

"If it wasn't for the service, I would have had to spend those six weeks in hospital which can be quite depressing and frustrating when you feel relatively well. It was particularly good as it allowed me to go on a special trip to London with my girlfriend."

The service also regularly welcomes visiting staff from other hospitals all around the country to share good practice.



OPAT Patient John Hemingway

Dr Ann Chapman, the Clinical Lead for OPAT, said: "OPAT continues to go from strength to strength. A current priority is developing closer links with community services, to enable us to treat more patients in their own homes. OPAT is expanding nationally, and the Sheffield team has led the development of national Good Practice Recommendations for OPAT."



Dr Ann Chapman Consultant and Clinical Lead in Infectious Diseases

Health Advisers

Sexual health Advisers provide advice on sexual health matters and help patients understand what is happening when they are undergoing tests, have received test results or are undergoing treatment. They can also help patients to decide what to do about current or previous partners who may need to be examined or treated, and can also take on the responsibility of contacting partners who may have been exposed to a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI).

The team offer training courses on:

- Partner notification
- Risk reduction/ motivational interviewing
- Legal and ethical aspects of sexual health care
- STI Updates
- HIV testing

Health Advisers in the Trust have initiated several new developments to improve the patient experience, including:

- Point of care testing for HIV by blood spot which allows the results to be available in 20 minutes.
- Postal treatment and home sampling kit for contacts of Chlamydia who fail or refuse to attend.
- Research into the feasibility and acceptability of HIV testing by oral fluid home sampling for contacts of HIV who prefer not to attend clinic for testing. This study will be included in the National Institute for Health Research Clinical Research Network (NIHR CRN) Portfolio.
- Partner notification via the internet: patients can now send anonymous messages informing sexual partners of the need for testing. Sheffield is one of eight clinics nationally to pilot this service, which has been developed by Gay Men Fighting AIDS.
- Outreach testing for commercial sex workers in massage parlours and a street outreach bus in conjunction with Sheffield Working Women's Opportunities Project (SWWOP).

Collaborative Work

The team continue to work closely with colleagues in other agencies to engage hard to reach client groups, develop care and referral pathways, and provide training. This includes working on projects such as:



Gill Bell
Nurse Consultant Sexual Health Adviser

- Plans for integration with the local Chlamydia Screening Office to develop a Partner Notification Bureau for the city
- The Public Health Outbreak Control Team for HIV among intravenous drug users. Health Advisers have provided training and continue to co-ordinate management of partner notification across sites.
- Brothel strategy multi-disciplinary team meetings: Health Advisers worked with the police and other agencies to develop a strategy for safe management of massage parlours.
- The referral pathway for patients diagnosed with an STI in Obstetrics and Gynaecology has been revised following audit.
- Representation on national committees, including the National Chlamydia Screening Advisory Group; the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV Public Health Group and the Society of Sexual Health Advisers National Professional Committee.
- The South Yorkshire HIV Network Public Health Group. This group was set up to provide a forum for local Health Advisers and HIV nurses to meet and discuss issues raised relating to partner notification and risk reduction across the network.

Gill Bell Nurse Consultant Sexual Health Adviser said: "We have continued to maintain excellent standards throughout the year. Our partner notification outcomes for all infections have exceeded the national standards, as in previous years. We have also recently undertaken an audit of risk reduction which shows the proportion of patients offered behavioural intervention continues to increase each year which is another step towards improving Sheffield's sexual health."

Genito-Urinary Medicine

Royal Hallamshire Hospital

Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) has continued to work with services in the community - Sheffield's contraception and sexual health services and the Centre for HIV and sexual health, to improve the sexual health of people in Sheffield.

We have actively participated in events throughout the year such as Sheffield Pride, Sexual Health Awareness Week, University events and the Trust Health and Wellbeing Festival to raise awareness of good sexual health practices and to boost the department's profile.

The directorate has recently achieved academic directorate status and had a successful first research day on the 14th October where all members of the multi disciplinary team were invited.

Matron Kirsty Ellis said: "Participating in research plays an integral part of the department and as such staff are actively encouraged to develop their research skills and we have been proud to support a staff nurse secure a place on the Msc research course at Sheffield Hallam University. We have witnessed community sexual health services integrating into the Trust and subsequently these services have been identified as appropriately matched to integrate into communicable diseases directorate. Two time out sessions were organised to begin the integration process between the services and this has already provided better links and understanding of the different services. It is anticipated that this will provide us all with an opportunity to better develop sexual health services to meet the needs of the population in Sheffield and surrounding areas."

GUM has also supported various departments within the Trust over the past 18 months in the form of secondments to infection control and supplying staff to assist on the Flu ward.



They have been actively involved in the introduction of a Quality, Improvement, Productivity and Prevention (QUIPP) initiative in the form of a nurse led clinic within GUM. The department were also reaccredited in May 2011 for maintaining standards of Infection control throughout the department and are consistently achieving above expected standards for Ecat (Clinical Assurance Toolkit).

Kirsty added: "We are also actively involved in the development of a public and patient engagement group. Membership of the panel includes people living with HIV, those caring for someone who is or are part of a community where friends or peers have been directly affected by HIV. Peoples experience, knowledge, understanding and empathy are really valuable and will help to improve local services for people living with HIV."

Directorate Undergraduate and Postgraduate teaching

Sheffield is a major centre for post-graduate training in infectious diseases and in Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM). The Directorate is a major contributor to teaching of medical undergraduates through phase I – 4 of the medical curriculum. Members of the directorate oversee the teaching of Clinical Microbiology, Infectious Diseases and GUM. Over the next 12 months the directorate will be taking on further phase II students. There are 14 SpR training posts across the directorate and both foundation doctors and core medical trainees and General Practice Trainees rotate through the departments.

In Infectious Diseases, all consultants engage in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching on a daily basis. In addition, Professor Steve Green hosts the MRCP PACES examination annually, and Dr Ann Chapman contributes nationally to higher specialist training through her role as Secretary of the Examination Board of the Infectious Diseases speciality certificate examination.

In GUM, undergraduate teaching is supervised by an Honorary University Reader in Medical Education, Dr Martin Talbot, who is also one of the few Senior Fellows in the country of the UK Higher Education Academy. As a member of council and the executive, and recently Policy Lead, of the Association for Medical Education and an education visitor/associate of the GMC, Dr Talbot is intimately involved with developments in medical education, nationally and at the University of Sheffield.

Dr Rogstad as chair of BASHH Education Committee is responsible for delivering educational programmes nationally on STIs and HIV for doctors, nurses and allied professionals. She has overall responsibility for the Sexually Transmitted Infection Foundation which includes the development and implementation of an innovative competency based assessment and training programme aimed at specialist nurses and non-specialist doctors. She is also responsible for National Learning Management System the development of the sexual abuse module of the

Dr Martin Talbot Consultant Physician in Genitourinary Medicine



Department of Health (NLMS) section on sexual health and HIV (eHIV-STI); she is also an Undergraduate Dean of the University of Sheffield Medical School.

Academic training

The Directorate provides ongoing programmes of education and training to staff working across different organisations and agencies. High quality teaching sessions are delivered to various pre and post registration courses on topics relating to infection. Members of the directorate have teaching commitments with the University and present at a national level. In addition, the Directorate has provided leadership in the development of a National Competency based teaching and assessment programme for nurses and doctors, which it also delivers. Nurse Consultants in the Directorate are national leaders in their field for teaching nurses, doctors, and other health care providers on their specialist areas

Nurse training

The Directorate has provided leadership in the development of a National Competency-based teaching and assessment programme for nurses and doctors, which it also delivers. Nurse Consultants in the Directorate are national leaders in their field for teaching nurses, doctors, and other health care providers on their specialist areas.

The Lead Nurse and Research Co-ordinator have organised workshops for nursing staff across the Directorate to help promote and encourage staff to develop their own research ideas and/or become more involved in research studies across the Directorate. It is anticipated this work will be rolled out further to other Health Professionals within the department.