Primary Care Team Development Update

The development of Primary Care Teams continues at a steady pace despite the challenges the HSE are faced with in the current economic environment. As of the end of September, there are 264 Primary Care Teams in place. Since the beginning of 2010, 75 new Teams have commenced operation with significant progress being made in Dublin North East.

At present, there are 2,324 (WTE) HSE staff members participating on Team with 1,141 GPs and these Teams cover a population of 2.36m people.

By the end of this year 18 Primary Care Centres will be completed and leases signed (a number of these may not become operational until early 2011). A further 38 should become operational in 2011.

Roll out of New-born Hearing Screening in HSE South

The National Audiology Review is nearing completion and is expected that the Report will be submitted to HSE Senior Management Team in the coming weeks. As part of the work of the Review, a national model for newborn hearing screening is being proposed. The HSE South’s maternity hospitals in Cork, Kerry and Waterford have been selected to implement newborn hearing screening with the 2010 Development funding.

An EU Tender was published for provision of the screen and the evaluation phase of the procurement process is now near completion. It is planned that the implementation date for commencement of newborn hearing screening in the HSE South designated maternity hospitals will be before yearend.

The HSE South will be responsible for the procurement of the equipment and the provision of education and training requirements for the South rollout of the newborn hearing screening are currently being progressed.
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Further to the 11 toolkits or guidelines already developed, 2 further business toolkits have now been completed for PCTs to implement in their area. A Directory of Services and a Patient Information Leaflet. Each area will be required to complete these documents to reflect the services available locally and will be used by HSE care professionals and other professionals involved in the delivery of Primary Care Team and Network services.

Launch of Pearse Street PCT

Launch of Kinnegad PCT

Launch of Clondalkin PCTs

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Launch of Clondalkin Primary Care Teams

Minister Mary Harney TD launched 4 additional Primary Care Teams for Clondalkin recently and referred to the event as “Another milestone in the life of the Clondalkin Health and Social Care Network”. Minister Harney TD, said, “I am pleased that we are launching 4 new Primary Care Teams in Clondalkin today. Our challenge is to be innovative, think differently and so provide a service which is based on the needs of the community.” Speaking at the launch, Dr Deena Ramiah, a local GP and Network services consultant, said: “It is a great pleasure to see the system work effectively.”

Primary Care Team Launches

Pearse Street, Cathedral, Kinnegad and 4 Clondalkin Primary Care Teams are all officially launched.
Oral Nutritional Supplements

While ONS products when used correctly can be cost effective and appropriate there are concerns about both the cost and effective use of these products. Data from the Primary Care Reimbursement Service reveal a 42% increase in annual spending by HSE schemes on ONS products.

North Clare – Reaching out to Smokers

NIACE guidance recommends that smoking cessation advice and support should be available in primary care settings for everyone who smokes. Since July 2010, North Clare PCT, as one of seven pilot sites throughout Ireland, is integrating its services to address smoking at local level. This initiative, led nationally by the NCCP, Health Promotion and Primary Care is being driven locally through partnership working by the North Clare PCT, Clare PCCC, and Clare Health Promotion. The pilot aims to enable PCT personnel to use brief interventions to promote smoking cessation among their patients and to refer patients to smoking cessation services. Through brief interventions, smokers who need more intensive support can be identified and referred on. The odds of longer term quitting can be increased from 5% up to 20% with optimal treatment – namely, behavioral support and a medication aid. In Ireland, 29% of the adult population are current smokers. The North Clare PCT has embraced a duty of care for smokers by completing a six hour skills-based training programme. A pre-training survey of practice was conducted at all intervention & control sites and will be used by the NCCP to measure project outcomes after 12 months. These outcomes will inform the future development of smoking cessation supports and structures within the primary care setting.

Health Screening in the Community

As part of Blanchardstown Community Safety, Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week, the Mulhuddart / Tyrrelstown Primary Care Team and Corduff Primary Care Team organised Health Screening in the local Community. Health Providers involved in this initiative included the Local GP, Dr Edel Mc Ginnity, who is a member of the Mulhuddart / Tyrrelstown PCT, Dr Eamon Dolan, Consultant Physician in Care for the Elderly, Connolly Hospital and Dr Lelane Van de Poel, Senior Registrar - Stroke, Connolly Hospital (all pictured below).

Upcoming Events

- Knock PCT Information Evening
- Knocknacarra/Shantalla PCT Information Evening
- Turning of the sod ceremony for the Ballyfermot Primary Care & Mental Health Centre
- Launch of Ballycullane PCT, Wexford
- Launch of Stroke Support Group – Ballina
- Primary Care Team

Further information or queries, please contact primarycare@hse.ie
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An ONS Group adopted a comprehensive and focused approach by contacting all GPs, PHNs and involving PCTs in prescribing information, education material and costs of ONS products. The group also utilised PCTs to coordinate Dietician input and structured approach. The initiative was a great success with the reduced prescribing activity for 2009 compared to 2008 resulting in significant savings.

It is clear that Primary Care Teams provide the building bricks by which we can achieve real change in the Health Service both in terms of appropriate prescribing and cost effective care.

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Funding secured for DVD of Clinical Team Meetings

Funding has been secured via Partnership to develop, produce and highlight best practice in the operation and function of Clinical Team meetings in Primary Care Teams to include practical examples of Clinical Team meetings. It is intended to capture on DVD the approach taken by a number of these teams in bringing together patients at a Clinical Meetings. CTMs provide the skill range to meet the increasingly complex needs of service users who require the different skills of different professionals. The production of a DVD will show how this is achieved in an effective and frequent manner.

1. Asthma – Dr Dermot Nolan
2. COPD – Dr Derek Forde
3. Diabetes – Dr Velma Harkins
4. Heart failure – Dr Joe Gallagher
5. Stroke – Dr Pat Duffan
6. Care of the Elderly – Dr Tony Lee
7. Dermatology – Dr Johnny Loughnane
8. Rheumatology – Dr David Gibney

Work on the development of guidelines and care pathways continue under the direction of each of the Programme Leads. Dr Margaret O’Riordan who has recently been appointed as the ICGP Head of Quality and Standards is co-ordinating the Primary Care Programme with Dr Joe Clarke, Programme Lead - Primary Care, HSE.

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