

GP Bulletin – December 2019

ACE team launches new jaundice pathway

We are delighted to share the news that our award-winning children's ACE (Ambulatory Care Experience) Service continues to go from strength-to-strength – and has now added another clinical pathway to its virtual ward. The jaundice pathway is the fourth ACE pathway to come online.

In December 2017 the successful 'wheezy child' pathway kick-started the project, followed by the gastroenteritis and croup pathways. The jaundice pathway will see well babies with this common problem receive special light treatment (phototherapy) in the comfort of their own home. Carers will be supported to provide this treatment by our ACE nurses and mums will continue to receive care from their midwives as usual.

Before the jaundice pathway was given the green light, FY2 Jess Morrison carried out an audit on the use of phototherapy to treat baby jaundice on the children's ward. She found that 18 babies were admitted to BRI's Children's Clinical Decision Area (CCDA) over a two-month period. Of those 18, 16 could have had their care managed in the community. The audit concluded that performing phototherapy on jaundiced babies in the community had the potential to reduce parental distress, as well as around 6,000 inpatient hours and potentially up to 150 admissions per year.

Our ACE pathways work along similar lines to our ambulatory care service and elderly care virtual ward, and see our hugely experienced community nursing team treat babies and children in the comfort of their own homes under the expert eye of our consultant paediatricians. Consultant Paediatrician and Children's Ambulatory Care Lead, Dr Mat Mathai, said: "We are extremely grateful to Hayley Collis and her team at the Bradford Hospitals' Charity who have bought the £10,000 Bilisoft phototherapy system for us. It's really down to the kindness of our community donating to this worthwhile charity. This is great news for mums and babies who currently need an admission to hospital for this treatment. Not only will it have the benefit of reducing stress for families, it will also reduce the risks of hospital acquired infections for these otherwise well babies. It will mean we have more cubicles available in the Children's Ward which are very precious, particularly at this time of

the year.” Mat added that there were already a number of other Trusts around the country providing this care, but he hoped that the standardised ‘off-the-shelf’ approach of the ACE pathways and service would encourage all Trusts to do the same.

The ACE scheme delivers a more efficient service to our patients as it reduces emergency admissions and readmissions to our hospitals, empowers families to manage common medical problems better and enhances our collaborative working with our CCG and GP colleagues across the district.

Exciting new collaboration sows the seeds for more home-grown nurses

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is delighted to announce we’re part of an innovative collaboration to train more home-grown nurses at our sites. This is a major step forward in our recruitment plan as it develops a second cohort of newly qualified nurses that, in future, can hopefully join our Trust in the spring – in addition to the nurses who join us in the autumn from the University of Bradford.

It’s a win-win as local students can attend Bradford College and do placements at their local hospital, where they can spend their careers. Students will spend 50 per cent of their time in practice learning experience at our Trust or Airedale NHS Foundation Trust and their three-year study with the university will complement and enhance their learning in the workplace.

The University of Bolton is offering the BSc (Hons) Nursing (Adult) degree in partnership with Bradford College. Taught at Bradford College by University of Bolton staff, the programme is designed to help prepare would-be nurses for a successful career caring for people over 18.

Together with the university and Bradford College, we’ll work to prepare students to become confident, professional and compassionate nurses, able to deliver and lead adult care within the NHS. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers, who as well as supporting staff, patients and visitors, are also busy raising funds for our hospitals. A few fantastic examples of this fundraising during 2019 are £37,318 to buy two digital oral scanners for our Maxillofacial department, £6,000 to buy a

therapy bike for the Physiotherapy department, £10,000 to refresh physiotherapy cubicles and £1,600 for four wheelchairs in our Orthopaedic Outpatients department.

Our Trust continues to have a strong partnership with the University of Bradford, but this new collaboration is an added boost to our recruitment drive for nurses.

Introducing our home birth team

The team, established at the end of March this year, consists of six midwives – Team Lead Emma Fleary, and Wendie Holland, Laura Hughes, Charlie McDonald-Wright, Nicole Wood and Steph Crefin – along with two named consultant obstetricians. Its aim is to provide a dedicated home birth service to the families of Bradford and provide continuity of care during the antenatal, labour, delivery and postnatal period.

As a Trust, we have offered home births before but thanks to this new dedicated team, all women who choose a home birth not only have a named midwife but a buddy midwife too. Recently the team held its first engagement event, which was well attended by both antenatal and postnatal mothers.

Team Lead Emma stated that the team had also taken the opportunity to review its achievements over the past six months:

- From 31 March to 30 September, 58 women have been booked to give birth on the home birth continuity pathway
- This is a 57% increase on the same period of the previous year
- Of these anticipated births, 25 women (43.1%) achieved a birth at home
- This are only four fewer women than the total amount of women achieving a home birth in the preceding year
- Of these 25 women, 84% were attended by a member of the home birth team for their birth, with 32% of them attended by their named or buddy midwife.

“In these first six months, women on the home birth pathway received 100% continuity of antenatal care from the home birth team unless they changed their

minds and chose to return to their named community midwife for care,” explained Emma. “More than half (53%) of their antenatal care provided was also with the woman’s named midwife, and 82.7% with either the named or buddy midwife.”

The Home Birth team is just one of our innovative Continuity of Carer models, launched by our maternity services. We also have our Clover team (our Better Start Bradford funded pilot project), the previous caesarean pathway and the Gold Star pathway for HIV positive women, with many more pathways under development.

Festive Greetings from BTHFT

As the year winds down, BTHFT continues its focus on providing patient centred care during the busy festive season. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in 2019 and look forward to working with you in 2020.

Wishing you a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

