



## South London Cardiac and Stroke Network Highlight report - May 2012

May 2012

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### Newsletter roundup

- [Stroke Improvement Programme news \(8th June\)](#)
- [Heart Improvement Programme news \(28th May\)](#)
- [National Heart Forum e-Briefing \(30th May\)](#)
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- [British Heart Foundation news](#)
- [Atrial Fibrillation Alliance \(May\)](#)

Senior responsible officer - Lucy Grothier, Director, SLCSN  
Report through 31st May 2012

### London stroke model picks up BMJ award

The NHS in London was this month awarded a BMJ Group Improving Health Awards 2012 in the category of *Improvement in Patient Safety*. The awards recognise and celebrate excellence in healthcare across the UK and include awards for groundbreaking research, inspirational leaders and innovations to improve patient care.

The Awards received a remarkably high number of quality submissions, which truly proves how extraordinarily valuable the model and the ongoing work by NHS staff in London is to improving patient outcomes in the capital.

At the black tie ceremony on 23rd May attended by Lucy Grothier, Director of the SLCSN, and the other two London network directors, the judges noted the importance of the project, not just for the outcomes achieved in stroke but also its affect on other diseases as well.



*Pictured: Prof Tony Rudd, Clinical Director for Stroke, and Ruth Carnall, Chief Executive, NHS London*

### London Cardiovascular Project draws to a close

The London Cardiovascular and Stroke Networks successfully implemented the London Cardiovascular Project across the capital to improve the efficiency, quality and experience for Londoners with cardiovascular disease. The legacy document summarising the role of the networks and the achievements of the project will be presented to the Pan-London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network Board (PLCSNB) on 26th June and will be available on the SLCSN website thereafter.

### NSTEACS

The high-risk NSTEMI pathway is live for all units across South London. Network performance will be presented to the PLCSNB in June.

### Arrhythmia

Emergency referral processes have been agreed for South East and South West arrhythmia networks, ensuring 24/7 service. South London local units have been assessed with action plans in place to achieve the quality standards. Central units, too, have developed plans for the review of progress and to assess outcomes and improvement in the new referral pathways across the networks.

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### New cardiac rehab resource released



A new NHS Improvement online resource **[Quality, innovation and value in cardiac rehabilitation: commissioning for improvement](#)** is now live and available through the NHSI website.

NHSI has been working to help the NHS improve access to and uptake of cardiac rehabilitation services through the implementation of the Department of Health's **[Commissioning Pack for Cardiac Rehabilitation](#)**. The NHSI resource captures the key learning from this and other related work aimed at driving quality and efficiency in CR.

Peruse the SLCSN case studies from Kingston and view videos of [Alison Basa](#), SLCSN Project Manager, discussing local implementation of the DH pack, outcomes and measures for improvement.

## Prevention workstream

The SLCSN prevention workstream met on 9th May and agreed that work over the coming year will concentrate on hypertension and updating the NHS diabetes filter once national guidance is finalised.

## Online CHD prevention course

The University of York is holding a 14-week, degree-level online module for healthcare professionals, CHD Prevention Online. This online module offers practitioners the opportunity to develop skills in coronary heart disease prevention, while working in the virtual learning environment with simulated patients. The next course session begins 2nd October.

[Details are available online](#)

## NHS Health Check

The 14th NHS Health Check National Learning Network Event will take place on Tuesday 17th July at the Holiday Inn, Regents Park, London.

As with previous events, this workshop will feature policy update from the Department of Health, along with presentations, discussions and interactive group work around the emerging issues and themes affecting the NHS Health Check programme.

The event agenda will look at contracting after the transition, increasing uptake of the NHS Health Check programme and influencing lifestyle behaviour change.

Please note that this event is for people involved in the commissioning, roll out and delivery of the NHS Health Check programme. Anyone representing a private company or charity will *not* be able to attend.

[A draft agenda](#) is available online. Please note booking deadline is 12th July.

## APPG on atrial fibrillation



Network staff on 17th April attended an All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on atrial fibrillation (AF) to discuss the upcoming DH Cardiovascular Outcomes Strategy and whether a focus on AF would improve outcomes for patients and decrease the risk of stroke.

The [summary report of the meeting](#) is available on the NHS Improvement website .

## ICD deactivation policy writing group

A South London ICD deactivation policy writing group has been formed and will meet on 1st June to develop a draft document for wider distribution and review.

The policy will then be discussed at the next SLCSN arrhythmia roundtable meeting which will be held on 20th June from noon-2pm at the Network offices. Please email [Richard Whitfield](#) for further information.



## CVD

### Outcomes Strategy

*Shaping the future of cardiovascular disease for patients, healthcare professionals and the UK.*

## Your input wanted - Creating the future of CVD

Work continues at a national level on the new Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Outcomes Strategy since Secretary of State for Health, Andrew Lansley, announced in December his plan to tackle the UK's CVD challenges.

A London event on 27th June ([see back page](#)) will provide an opportunity to feed into the development of the new CVD Outcomes Strategy, which will build on existing policies and quality standards to form a comprehensive, joined-up approach across the NHS, public health and social care. A national event for patients and carers will be held on 5th July to seek their views on priorities for inclusion of the strategy.

The Network is involved in this work, including participation in a series of All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) meetings. These events aim to identify some of the key priorities for the CVD Outcomes Strategy, such as prevention, awareness, risk assessment and early diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease. The fourth and final meeting of the series, *Living with cardiovascular disease*, will be held on 12th June.

**The next SLCSN arrhythmia roundtable meeting will be held on 20th June from noon-2pm at the Network offices. Please email [Richard Whitfield](#) for further information.**

## SLCSN lead interviewed on telly

Helen Williams, Consultant Pharmacy Lead for SLCSN, was [interviewed on both ITN](#) and Sky News following the release of a recent Lancet Journal study which suggested that everyone over the age of 50 could benefit from statin therapy.

The meta-analysis pooled data on 175,000 patients who took part in 27 separate randomised trials and found that statins reduced the risk of serious vascular events by more than a fifth for each unit reduction in LDL cholesterol, "irrespective of age, sex, baseline LDL cholesterol or previous vascular disease."



Helen emphasised in both interviews that statins should be part of a package of care for patients including consideration of lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise and smoking.

## New oral anticoagulants

- A new SLCSN web page has been created to post updates on [new oral anticoagulants](#).
- The Pharmacy Working Group is currently working to update the SLCSN New Oral Anticoagulants prescribing guidance in line with recent NICE health technology appraisal guidance for [dabigatran](#) and [rivaroxaban](#). Apixaban is due February 2013.
- An extraordinary meeting to discuss the implications and [update the Network guidance](#) was held in April. Draft guidance is currently being circulated for consultation. Following agreement across clusters it will be signed off at **the next Cardiovascular Prescribing Forum meeting on 21st June**. Please contact [Sara Nelson](#) if you are interested in joining this group. We welcome CCG representatives.

The next Industry Working Group meeting is scheduled for 24th July.

## ACHD review in England

A review on the future shape of services for adults with congenital heart disease (ACHD) in England, led by NHS Specialised Services on behalf of commissioners in England is currently underway. Current services are being examined and standards for future provision will be developed. Feedback for the review team is being accepted through 27th July.

[Learn more online.](#)

## Heart failure

- The Network recommends that all boroughs review their services and implement the [SLCSN heart failure commissioning guide](#).
- A new report from the National End of Life Care Intelligence Network has been released, [End of life care in England – the good and the bad: What do we know now that we didn't know a year ago?](#)
- The next heart failure work stream meeting is on 28th June.

Further information can be obtained by emailing [Alison Basa](#).

## NICE IPG 427

NICE interventional procedure guidance 427, [Percutaneous balloon cryoablation for atrial fibrillation](#) has been released. This procedure uses a probe attached to a balloon catheter to freeze tissue in one of the chambers on the left side of the heart. The aim is to produce scarring, which may interrupt the electrical signals and help regulate the heartbeat.

## Revascularisation

- A South London Revascularisation meeting is scheduled for September and will focus on chest pain and community cardiology. Details to follow.
- **The deadline for submission of all MINAP data for 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012 has been extended to 29 June.** Please ensure your data submissions are up to date. [More details online.](#)

Enquiries may be directed to [Sara Nelson](#).

## Acute stroke work stream

### ***SINAP report: Overall performance for Q4***

Stroke Improvement National Audit Programme (SINAP)/London Minimum Data Set (LMDS) looks at performance against [12 key indicators](#) that demonstrate high quality stroke care.

[Results for Quarter 4](#) (Jan-Mar 2011) are available, as is a [South London summary from the Network](#). South London sites scored higher than the national (69.2%) and London (78.9%) averages of all indicators (save for the PRUH, at 62.9%).

### ***Site assessments***

The HASU at the Princess Royal University Hospital (PRUH) passed the A1(3) and A2(1) standards on 10th May. The SUs at PRUH and Queen Elizabeth's Hospital (QEH) will be assessed for B and A2(2) standards in July.

### ***Early supported discharge (ESD)***

The Network continues to work with boroughs where ESD services have not been commissioned to make the case for such services.

### ***Presenting at APPG***

Helen O'Kelly, Assistant Director for Stroke, on 23rd May presented to the All-Party Parliamentary Group for stroke.

Helen was charged to talk about stroke treatment. Opening with what clinical networks are and what they do, Helen discussed the London stroke model, its clinical and financial successes and where we need to next focus our attention in the stroke pathway.

Areas for improvement include early supported discharge and rehabilitation. Helen noted how the SLCSN is currently undertaking projects to address these, and also noted how networks will likely evolve to be of most value in driving such changes in future.

## Sharing London's best practice

Representatives from the [Birmingham, Sandwell and Solihull Cardiac and Stroke Network](#) and the [Black Country Cardiovascular Network](#) visited St George's Hospital recently to study the London Stroke Strategy with a view to implementing something similar in their region.



### ***Rehab stroke work stream***

A demand and capacity workshop was held at the Network offices with teams from Greenwich, Lewisham, Bromley, South London Healthcare Trust and Your Healthcare (Kingston). Facilitated by NHS Improvement, the teams examined the issues affecting implementation of the [NICE stroke quality standard for ongoing rehabilitation](#) for patients which calls for at least *45 minutes of each active therapy that is required, for a minimum of 5 days a week...as long as they are continuing to benefit from the therapy and are able to tolerate it.*

The teams investigated the operational side to see how they could improve current practice. This included looking at how many 45-minute slots per day could accommodate patients and how they can eliminate current obstacles to achieve this.



## Commissioning and contract implications

<b>CARDIAC</b>	<p><b><i>New oral anticoagulants</i></b></p> <p>Implementation of the new oral anticoagulant drugs will create a significant cost pressure for organizations. The Network is looking at gaining consensus for the potential for a phased implementation of the guidance (see <a href="#">Prescribing section</a>)</p> <p><b><i>Expected date: June/July</i></b></p>	
<b>STROKE</b>	<p><b><i>HASU and SU</i></b></p> <p>The HASU at PRUH and SUs at QEH and PRUH are still subject to the accreditation process.</p> <p>All other units are subject to annual performance monitoring for 2012/13; plans are still being finalised by the London Clinical Advisory Group.</p>	<p><b><i>Acute and community stroke service specifications</i></b></p> <p>The following service specifications have been agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Community rehab and ESD</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Acute</a></li> </ul>
<b>LCVP</b>	No new issues	

## Decisions required

### Cardiac

- Approval for QMAS data awaited from Bromley; all other boroughs have granted access
- Approval for SLCSN access to ePACT data awaited from all boroughs except Croydon

### Stroke

No decision required

### Vascular

SEL - Formal confirmation of plans including timescales for moves and date for completion of the centralisation of vascular services

## Additional documents

- [Key risks/issues and mitigating actions](#) - A full risk log and mitigating actions is available on request.
- [Stroke performance update](#)
- [London Cardiovascular Project progress matrix](#)

## Professional development and resources

### Prevention of cardiovascular disease:

**Putting prevention first** | 5-6 July, London

hosted by Imperial College London

([Details](#))

**HRUK Heart Rhythm Congress 2012** | 23

-26 September, Birmingham | ([Details](#))

**The Changing face of Stroke Care** | 19

September, Birmingham | hosted by the

Royal College of Nursing ([Details](#))

**British Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation - 2012**

**course list** | Note: group discounts are available. ([Details](#))

### Search for courses and trainers

A new website, **Cardiology Course Guide** has been set up offering links to national and international CPD/CME cardiology courses organised by hospital consultants, academic institutions, established medical companies and expert individuals. ([Details](#))

**Et.al Training** lets you find trainers and book onto their existing events, or register to receive future information for events, by either your professional or geographical area. ([Details](#))

## Thrombus Innovation Awards 2012

The Thrombus awards are designed to highlight examples of innovation and excellence that have benefited patients with DVT or other clotting disorders.

*Closing date for applications is*

*31st July.*

[Details online](#)

## Dates for your diary

20 June - SLCSN Arrhythmia Roundtable meeting

21 June - SLCSN Cardiovascular Prescribing Forum; New Technologies board meeting | *hosted by London Specialised Commissioning Group*

22 June - SE London Acute Stroke Workstream meeting

27 June - London CVD Outcomes Strategy | *hosted by Department of Health*

17 July - 14th Learning Network event | *hosted by NHS Health Check*

19 July - SLCSN South London Rehabilitation meeting

For details, please contact the Network on 020 8812 5950 or [info@slcsn.nhs.uk](mailto:info@slcsn.nhs.uk).

## CVD Outcomes Strategy event: *Spaces are still available!*

In response to Andrew Lansley's announcement in December 2011 for the creation of a new strategy to tackle the UK's burden of cardiovascular disease (CVD), NHS Improvement and the Department of Health will be holding a **London meeting on 27th June from 10am -4pm**, aimed at stakeholders in cardiac, stroke, diabetes and renal specialties.

**This event is your opportunity to feed into the development of the new CVD Outcomes Strategy**, which will build on existing policies and quality standards to form a comprehensive, joined-up approach across the NHS, public health and social care.

Professor Huon Gray will be chairing this day-long meeting, with input from DH colleagues. In order to obtain as many views, thoughts and ideas as possible, the programme will comprise plenary and interactive workshop style sessions.

View the [draft agenda](#) and [download the registration form](#).



**NHS Improvement**

## London Cardiovascular Project update (*cont'd from front page*)

### Cardiac surgery

The SLCSN is finalising new training packages for inter-hospital transfer (IHT) system users. This will ensure strong governance and comprehensive information transfer embedded into *business as usual*.

The IHT system across London will be upgraded in 2012/13. Plans developed by the SLCSN cover the IT upgrade and systems training. IHT usage and length of stay data will be monitored via key performance indicators (KPIs) on the cardiac dashboard. The first Q4 report will be shared at the June PLCSNB meeting.

### Mitral valve surgery

The Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons CCAD database mitral valve audit has been agreed at local level. Plans are in place to measure and analyse KPIs on a bi-annual basis. The first performance report will be shared in the autumn.

### Vascular

#### South West

Complex arterial vascular surgery is now centralised at St George's Hospital site with ongoing SLCSN support for governance and delivery across the network.

#### South East

King's Health Partners (KHP) is working collaboratively to support the centralisation of inpatient services to the St Thomas' site. The additional hybrid theatre planned to open on St Thomas' site summer 2012 has encountered construction delays which will affect full centralisation and go live.

Phase I of the transfer to centralisation will begin in July. The SLCSN will continue to work with the teams at KHP to support progress and identify issues affecting delivery. These will be referred to the cluster for intervention by commissioners, as required.

### New technologies

The New technologies work stream, led by London Specialist Commissioning Group (LSCG), have completed a draft process for reviewing and assessing the commissioning of new cardiac technologies at a pan-London level. The assessment process includes a review of financial and clinical impacts. The assessment tool was developed with the support of key stakeholders, cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, commissioners, public health leads and network representatives. Work will continue in 2012/13 led by LSCG with Network support.

## South London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network

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Circulation:	NHS South East London and NHS South West London
Report for period:	1st-31st May 2012
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