



Sept 2012 issue

## Highlight report

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### Newsletter roundup

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- [NHS Improvement Stroke e-bulletin](#)
- [National Heart Forum eNews briefing](#)
- [Cardiac Rhythm News](#)
- [News from London's stroke networks](#)

Senior responsible officer - Lucy Grothier  
Director, South London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network

### New QIPP planning tool for cardiovascular commissioners

A QIPP 2013/14 planning tool has been designed for south London cardiovascular commissioners called [QIPP Planner](#). For assistance with using QIPP Planner or for more comprehensive commissioning support contact [Sara Nelson](#).

### Greenwich practice wins GP Enterprise Award

GP magazine announced the winner of the 'GP Enterprise Award: Outstanding Practice Team': Dr Eugene Lee's Greenwich practice, Thamesmead Medical Associates, which set-up an opportunistic health check clinic at its local supermarket, screening 1,024 men over an eight week period.

Read the [full GP magazine article](#).

### European Cardiovascular Disease statistics 2012: new report

World Heart Day was held on 29 September and [new figures](#) were released which show a significant improvement in Europe's heart health. Since the 2008 report there has been a substantial drop in the number of deaths attributed to heart disease. Cardiovascular disease is now responsible for 4 million European deaths annually, down from 4.3 million in 2008, which represents a drop from 48% to 47% of total European deaths.

### Network presented atrial fibrillation pilot results at Heart Rhythm UK Congress

Project manager for South London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network, Gillian Wilson, presented the results, at this year's Heart Rhythm UK Congress, from a Sutton and Merton pilot project which aimed to encourage general practices to use the stroke risk assessment tool, 'GRASP-AF', and provide them with expert advice and education from an arrhythmia nurse. The pilot produced an increase in the number of patients, with atrial fibrillation, being prescribed warfarin, to reduce their risk of stroke. The Heart Rhythm Congress presentation was part of a session supported by NHS Improvement on stroke prevention in patients with atrial fibrillation. Gillian Wilson has also been published in the British Journal of Cardiac Nursing '[Stroke prevention in primary care](#)', September 2012 7 (9) 432-437 to coincide with the Heart Rhythm congress.

### Medicines see biggest spend reduction

HSJ reports 'In total, 42 out of 52 primary care trust clusters have a medicines management QIPP workstream. Between them they plan to cut spending by £389m over the next three years, equivalent to 9 per cent of all planned local QIPP savings. Eighty four per cent of these workstreams were given a progress rating of "green", compared with 58 per cent of demand management schemes for non-elective care and 52 per cent for elective care.' Read the [full HSJ article](#).

### CCGs to give views on CVD outcomes strategy

Clinical commissioning groups are invited to give views on the new cardiovascular disease (CVD) outcomes strategy in line with the NHS, public health and adult social care outcomes frameworks about how CCGs could commission services that deliver better CVD outcomes. A WebEx is being held on Weds 31 Oct, led by Huon Gray, NCD cardiovascular, for people involved in implementing the strategy. Contact [Kimberley Reed](#).

NICE are currently reviewing lipid modification guidelines for update:

- [lipid modification](#) (NICE clinical guideline 67, 2008); and
- [statins](#) for the prevention of cardiovascular events (NICE technology appraisal guidance 94, 2006).

Draft will be available for consultation in early 2014. This update is being undertaken as part of the guideline review cycle. Full details available from [NICE](#).

**Transcatheter aortic valve implantation guidance**

**for aortic stenosis**: Transcatheter aortic valve implantation may be an alternative to surgical valve replacement in patients for whom conventional aortic valve replacement is not suitable, or who are at very high risk. The procedure is performed through a tube, which is usually inserted into a large blood vessel at the top of the leg or elsewhere (transluminal approach), but it is sometimes also inserted into the apex of the heart (transapical approach). Through this tube, a replacement valve is inserted and deployed over the faulty native valve.

**Atrial fibrillation guidelines update**: The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) launched its updated 2010 guidance on atrial fibrillation. Stroke prevention: additional evidence has strengthened the use of the CHA2DS2-VASc score for the identification of “truly low-risk” patients without the need for any antithrombotic therapy, and of novel oral anticoagulant drugs as alternatives to dose-adjusted vitamin K antagonists (VKAs). Read more in ESC’s [Congress News](#) or ‘[New AF guidelines downgrade aspirin for stroke prevention in AF](#)’ in arrhythmia Watch.

Consultation for hypertension quality standard: NICE will be running a consultation for the hypertension quality standard from 5 October until 3 November. Further details on how to comment is due from NICE shortly.

**Percutaneous balloon cryoablation guidance**: [percutaneous balloon cryoablation for pulmonary vein isolation in atrial fibrillation](#).

**Valvular heart disease guidance**: The European Society of Cardiology, in association with the European Association for Cardiothoracic Surgery, has issued [new guidance on the treatment of valve disease](#).

**Additional documents:**

[QIPP Planner](#)

**Information requests:**

Contact [info@slcsn.nhs.uk](mailto:info@slcsn.nhs.uk) if you cannot find what you are looking for on the [Network website](#)

**Prescribing**

The Cardiac Prescribing Forum was held on 26 September.

SLCSN are developing a transfer of care document to complement the [novel anti-coagulant position statement](#) and [dabigatran prescribing guidance](#) which is coming soon to the [SLCSN website](#).

A guideline for [prescribing rivaroxaban](#) is available on the [SLCSN website](#).

Work is underway to produce a frequently-asked-questions, shared care protocol and bleeding guidance. A new [SLCSN web page](#) to update on progress of work on [new oral anticoagulants](#) is now available.

Consultation is taking place on the new stable angina guidelines and the heart failure guidelines for ACE ARBs, and beta-blockers are in the process of being updated, which will be coming soon to the [SLCSN website](#)

The last Pharmacy working group meeting was held on 18 October 2012.

Contact [Sara Nelson](#) if you are interested in joining this group. CCG representatives are welcome.

## Stroke — commissioning intentions

Commissioning intentions have been shared with commissioners which encourage the commissioning of community stroke services (including early supported discharge), six month reviews and psychological support services. Service specifications for 2013/14 are now available on the [SLCSN website](#) . For more information or to discuss further contact [Helen O'Kelly](#).

## Stroke — acute

Acute work-stream meetings in south east and south west London were held in September. Performance in quarter 1 was reviewed and the results will be shared in the next Highlight Report. A presentation from [London Ambulance Service's stroke performance](#) in the last quarter was also shared.

Work continues to finalise the stroke unit nurse competencies – the group met this month to sign off a final draft of the competency document, now merged with the existing hyper-acute stroke unit nurse competencies. The group are seeking final feedback from trusts and accreditation from the UK Forum for Stroke Training. Implementation across London stroke units is expected later this year.

## Stroke — general update

The Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme core dataset which will be used for the web tool pilot has been shared with stroke units. The web tool pilot will take place in November and the start of the SSNAP core clinical audit is expected in December.

The [fourth edition of the National Clinical Guideline for Stroke](#) has been published, prepared by the Royal College of Physicians Inter-collegiate Stroke Working Party.

### Key recommendations are>>>

## Stroke — early supported discharge Stroke & community rehabilitation

An early supported discharge service run by Bromley Specialist Community Rehabilitation Neurology commenced on 1 October 2012.

A Kingston borough-based community service, provided by Your Healthcare, which includes early supported discharge, began on 2 July 2012.

## Stroke — rehabilitation

A meeting will be held on 3 October [2012](#) to bring together local stroke units in south London with providers from the specialised neuro-rehabilitation consortium. For more information, please contact [Vanessa Brunning](#).

As part of a pan London review into non-consortium inpatient stroke beds for stroke patients, Professor Tony Rudd visited Tolworth Hospital on July 24 2012, and congratulated the multidisciplinary team on a well run and integrated unit. Recommendations were made that an appropriately skilled and flexible workforce should be in place to support an evolving stroke rehabilitation community service, which the team are responding to. Professor Rudd's south London visits will be completed by the end of September, with a visit to Queen Mary Roehampton and the Wolfson Unit, St George's Hospital on September 28.

- All patients regardless of how old they are or how severe their stroke is, should be considered for clot-busting treatment (thrombolysis)
- All patients should have a brain scan within a maximum of 12 hours. This is a reduction from the previous 24 hours to ensure all patients admitted out of hours are scanned the following day.
- Prescribing the anti-platelet drug clopidogrel as the first-line treatment after both stroke and transient ischaemic attack (TIA)

## Chest pain pathway

### Reperfusion Revascularisation

The SLCSN chest pain pathway and revascularisation meeting was held on 13 September. Thank you to all our organisations for uploading and reviewing their data. The new publication date for the myocardial infarction and national audit project (MINAP) 2012 Public Report is Thursday 15 November. Contact [Sara Nelson](#) if you would like to join the group.

NHS Evidence has recently produced a summary of selected new evidence relevant to NICE clinical guideline 126 'Management of stable angina' (2011): [Management of stable angina: Evidence Update September 2012](#).

## Heart failure

A new heart failure algorithm has been produced by the work-stream. Download the [commissioner version](#) and [GP version](#). For more information email [Alison Basa](#).

## Network diary dates

-south London stroke repatriation meeting, 7 Nov 2012, 2-4pm, SLCSN office

-industry working group meeting, 14 Nov, 10am-12noon, SLCSN office

-south London prevention meeting, 28 Nov, 1-3pm, SLCSN office

## Professional development and resources

**Stroke self-management open workshops** - 14-15 November 2012 @ St Georges Hospital, University of London, £350. For more information: [www.bridges-stroke.org.uk](http://www.bridges-stroke.org.uk), email [bridges-stroke@sgul.kingston.ac.uk](mailto:bridges-stroke@sgul.kingston.ac.uk) or call 0208 725 2445.

**UK Stroke Forum**, 4-6 December 2012 @ Harrogate International Centre, up to £480 - for more information visit the [conference website](#).

**Different Strokes Conference** – 'Therapies for body and mind' - 13 October 2012, Birmingham. – for more information visit the [Different Strokes website](#).

## MSc modules

Department of Primary Care Clinical Sciences, University of Birmingham

- [Management of Hypertension in primary care](#) – 11-14 February 2013, £500
- [Management of Heart Failure in primary care](#) - 26 February–1 March 2013, £500

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual Autumn Meeting, British Society for Heart Failure** – 'Heart failure, a multi-disciplinary approach' - 29-30 November 2012 @ Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London – for more information visit the [British Society for Heart Failure website](#).

**'Issues and Answers in Cardiovascular Disease: Applying the evidence in primary care today'** - 16-17 November 2012 @ Warwick University – for more information visit the [conference website](#).

**Cardiovascular Sciences Research Centre annual scientific meeting** [Lipids & Lipoproteins](#) - 29 November 2012 @ Royal Society of Medicine, London.

**Masterclass: [Setting-up a nurse-led cardiovascular clinic](#)**, 6 March 2013 @ Hallam Conference Centre, London

**[Integrated commissioning conference](#)**, 29 October 2012, London - a free event for NHS colleagues by the NHS Commissioning Board Authority and the Local Government Association aimed at NHS commissioners, providers and local authority colleagues.

## NHS South London Cardiovascular and Stroke Network

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