



The London Cardiovascular Project aims to improve treatment, care and outcomes of complex and emergency cardiovascular services for all Londoners.



The project has three main areas of focus:

- Cardiac surgery
- Cardiology
- Vascular services

Why was the London Cardiovascular Project created?

A recent review looked into how current cardiovascular services in the capital could be improved. A proposed model of care emerged from this assessment of current services and a thorough review of clinical evidence and an extensive study of national and international best practice. A patient panel informed the project for the duration.

The project aims to improve outcomes and pathways for complex and emergency cardiovascular services in the capital.

- Saving more patients' lives
- Increasing the speed and equity of services
- Improving patient access
- Reducing the length of time spent in hospital
- Improving the use of new technology and research
- Making the best use of NHS resources and saving public money

Who is responsible for implementing the London Cardiovascular Project?

The project recommendations were handed over to commissioners for implementation.

NHS London directed the London Cardiac and Stroke Networks to implement the project at a local level.

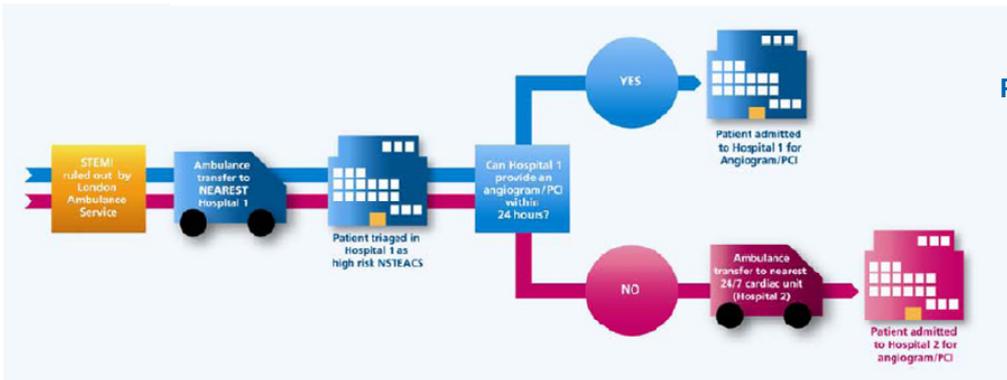
The London Cardiac and Stroke Networks will work closely with patients and stakeholders across London to ensure that changes are patient-centred. Full implementation will be completed by March 2012.

The London Cardiac and Stroke Networks bring together patients, GPs, commissioners and providers for improved patient outcomes along the entire pathway.



Cardiology

The work focused on two areas - services for patients with coronary heart disease and those with heart rhythm defects. The model recommends streamlining the current pathway to provide timely and accurate diagnosis, ensure patients receive care in the best possible setting by the best possible people.



Proposed pathway for high risk NSTEMI/ACS patients

Cardiac surgery

The clinical panel noted three areas where cardiac surgery services in London should be improved: Non-elective cardiac surgery, mitral valve surgery and cardiothoracic aortic disease. The model of care addresses these issues, recommending:

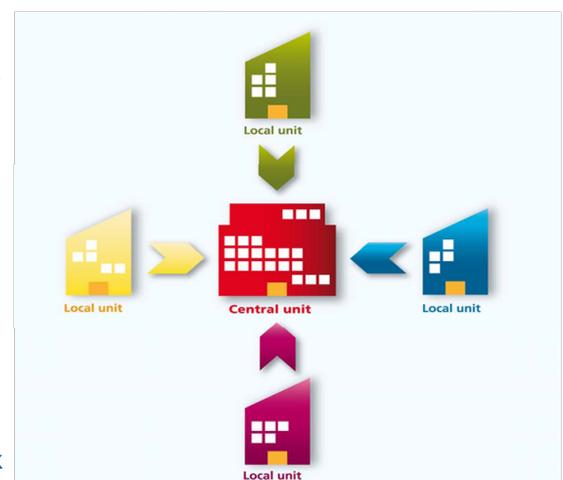
- The use of technology, such as electronic referral systems, to provide a seamless pathway, to speed up and improve the patient experience
- Agreeing evidence-based clinical protocols to establish the need for surgery.
- Reducing surgical mortality rate by prompt assessment and treatment by a specialist experience surgeon at a specialist site.

Vascular services

The project seeks to improve outcomes where vascular services are provided as part of an effective comprehensive network system.

- Centralising all elective and emergency arterial services at high volume units.
- The central units across London will each be linked with several local units.
- 75% of venous services would remain at hospitals currently performing them.

Proposed structure of vascular network



More information

Visit the project website, slcsn.nhs.uk/lcv, or contact the London Cardiac and Stroke Networks on:

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