Clinical Champions 2019-2021 cohort

Summary of impact, July 2019 – November 2019

“I am more confident and able to put myself forwards in a meaningful way and the clinical champions name tag has certainly enabled me to be taken more seriously”

Jayne Robbie

Diabetes and other conditions

Jacinta Meighan-Davies, Clinical Programme Manager for NHS Herefordshire CCG, has developed and launched a local care homes diabetes champion programme, with 55 staff participating across over 30 care homes. The programmes aims to enhance diabetes knowledge and skills amongst care home staff through themed education sessions and requiring educated staff to disseminate knowledge to their colleagues.

Rajiv Dhir, Deputy Chief Pharmacist in Wandsworth CCG London, has presented to and trained over 20 pharmacists working in nursing and residential homes on the opportunities of optimising drugs management of people with Type 2 diabetes with frailty. Rajiv is passionate about ensuring that the local clinical guidelines for the drug management of Type 2 diabetes in frail patients are accurate.

Dr Soon Song, Consultant Diabetologist in Sheffield, has worked closely with CCG Medicine Optimisations Team, community pharmacists, GP diabetes lead and community health trainers to raise awareness of the importance of pre-conception care for women with diabetes in the community, particularly for women with Type 2 diabetes. This has resulted in an improved uptake of folic acid from 29.4 to 50% and reduced harmful medications from 5.9 to 4.7% over a 10 month period. This work has been chosen to be presented at the National Diabetes in Pregnancy Conference in Bristol, only one of two centres selected in England and Wales.

Soon has also collaborated with the CCG pharmacist and primary care diabetes executive team to change the Sheffield guideline on lipid management for young people living with Type 2 diabetes to achieve a more aggressive lipid lowering strategy. He has also established a DESMOND course for young people living with Type 2 diabetes.

Footcare

Jayne Robbie, Senior Podiatrist in Birmingham, has recently completed a two year audit of hospital admissions from the podiatry service. These audit figures have been accepted for an oral presentation at the Foot in Diabetes conference 2019. Jayne continues to work with local services to raise awareness of the need for independent prescribing in podiatrists.

Dr Surya Rajeev, Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology in Liverpool, has been leading the service design of the diabetes foot pathway in her trust. Alongside this, she has also formed a Liverpool Diabetes Foot Care Network and chaired two diabetes foot engagement events. Surya has also engaged with key stakeholders to undertake a root-cause analysis of all major amputations in the last 12 months.
Healthcare Professional training

Dr Alison Heggie, Consultant in South Tyneside, has started to set up focussed training sessions for healthcare professionals in her trust. The sessions will be designed based on group training and educational needs.

Angela Hargreaves, Lead Diabetes Specialist Dietitian in Oxford, has recently finished designing the Thames Valley dietary strategies for Type 2 diabetes resource pack. Angela will be meeting with commissioners in December to agree how to launch the resource pack in Oxfordshire. She has also been working closely with the care planning team and local GP’s and practice nurses with an interest in diabetes understand their training needs. She is also looking at how primary care healthcare professionals can be trained on an ongoing basis.

Chris Cottrell, DSN and ThinkGlucose lead in Swansea, has redesigned the diabetes education programme in her trust which is due to be rolled out in the new year. She has also been involved in the review of safety needles being used across Swansea Bay by staff administering insulin to patients. At one hospital site, Chris has trained and educated 100% of staff, something which she is hoping to roll out across other sites and extend to community and nursing homes. Chris has also led on standardised hypo box positioning across the Health Board with routine daily checking of contents. And has written two PocketMedic films, one on the safe use of insulin in hospital and the other on the safe use of insulin in the community.

Nicola Milne, Community DSN in Manchester, has led work that has secured recurrent funding for a community DSN team in central Manchester. The CoDES, community diabetes education and support, team have pilot data that shows they have offered mentorship and education to over 1,172 healthcare professionals, in whom confidence in managing diabetes improved from 51% to 74%, and all participants said they would recommend the service. CoDES saw all referrals within 4 weeks and prevented 242 secondary care referrals. In complex cases requiring direct CoDES intervention, mean HbA1c improved from 85 to 63mmol/mol.

Nicola has also been working with Chief Nursing Officer for England, Ruth May, around support for diabetes education in England.

Satyan Kotecha, Community Pharmacist in Leicester, has met with 12 local pharmaceutical committees across the region and has engaged approximately 80 pharmacists in ADEPT, a diabetes training programme for pharmacists. Satyan is meeting with the IT providers for community pharmacy patient medication records systems to try and embed the Diabetes UK information prescriptions into the system to encourage use by pharmacists in their consultations.

Inpatient Care

Kaylee Lovie, Lead DSN in London, has been working to improve the diabetes inpatient service within her trust. Since Kaylee’s appointment the diabetes team is now at full capacity and has greater visibility in the hospital. As a result of this, inpatient referrals have tripled and nearly all referrals are responded to within 24 hours. Kaylee has been working with fellow Clinical Champion Ruth Miller on developing their own 10 point training cards which will soon be rolled out onto wards to increase diabetes training across the hospital.
The trusts recent patient feedback report highlighted that the diabetes ward was reported as the top service for positive feedback.

Rosemary Donnelly, Senior Clinical Diabetes Pharmacists in Belfast, has trained 18 healthcare professionals in her trust to deliver case-based reflections on insulin prescribing. She has led on discussion with trained nurses and pharmacists about incorporating reflective practices into workplace learning. Over the next couple of months Rosemary plans to train nurses and pharmacists to deliver case-based reflection across Northern Ireland. She is also in the early stages of getting service users involved in the project.

Dr Suma Sugunendran, Consultant in Endocrinology and Diabetes in Derby, has successfully submitted business cases for diabetes inpatient specialist nurses for both hospitals within her trust. She has also been in talks with East Staffordshire CCG on developing an integrated diabetes service.

Integrated care
Katie Hards, Lead DSN in Oxford, has led her team to deliver a 365 days a year diabetes inpatient service within the trust. Alongside ensuring that her team is at full capacity and they have the development opportunities they need, Katie is also involved in leading a team of DSNs in the identification of patients scheduled for pancreatectomy surgery for diabetes education. Since the start of the project, the team have seen a 3-fold increase in the number of people having pancreatectomy surgery due to visibility of the diabetes team in the trust.

Dr Raj Than, GP in Leicester, has been working with colleagues in both primary and secondary care to agree upon and implement a new integrated foot care pathway. Raj has also engaged with other stakeholders to develop and implement a new clinical template for use when referring patients to the foot care multidisciplinary team.

Digital
Dr Vinay Eligar, Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology in Cardiff, has successful managed to get his project of introducing an electronic diabetes clinic template to the next stage. Vinay has engaged with key stakeholders to gather their support in trialling the new system, and is currently waiting for the system to go live before he starts training his team members.

Service redesign
Dr Mimi Chen, Consultant Endocrinologist in London, has been working with teams across her trust to set up a pathway to receive referrals for people living with diabetes who are scheduled for surgery. Audit data from the initial pilot has shown that the diabetes pre-operative referral system has prevented on-the-day-cancellation, improved theatre utilisation, optimised diabetes for many patients who were not being reviewed in secondary care. This project has been highlighted at the diabetes GIRFT (Getting It Right First Time), and the trust has now been invited to participate in the national initiative for pre-operative diabetes optimisation. Mimi has also seen that patients who were initially turned away from surgery due to poor diabetes control have now shown to have almost perfect control.
Mimi has also recently been appointed as clinical lead for diabetes and endocrinology at St George’s Hospital.

**Psychological support**

Since her appointment as a Clinical Champion, Lucy Marquis, Advanced Diabetes Dietitian in Stoke-On-Trent, has secured positions on a number of strategic committees focusing on long-term condition, clinical leadership and emotional wellbeing. She has been working closely with the Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) lead in her area to help increase referrals into the service as well as including IAPT participation in carbohydrate counting education.

Dr Rose Stewart, Clinical Psychologist in Wrexham, has seen a significant increase in interest around diabetes psychology within her health board. This is in part due to her efforts over the last six months to meet with health board executives and the All-Wales lead for values based healthcare to discuss the importance of psychological care in diabetes services. She has also had successful meetings with the head of health psychology in which the need for additional funding for psychological care in diabetes has been agreed. Rose has also been selected to speak at the Diabetes UK Professional Conference in Glasgow next year.