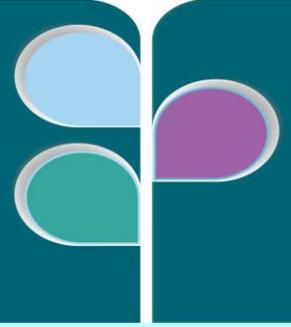


Links

Belfast Trust and GP Partnership newsletter



Issue 7 – April 2022



Welcome to our seventh Links edition! Our Trust and GP forum continues to meet on a fortnightly basis and has helped foster strong alliances across health and social care in primary and secondary care.

A real tangible example of what our enhanced partnership working can yield is the Primary Care Covid Centre where over the last 24 months 17,500 referrals were managed and 90% of those patients seen by a GP and 77% of those assessed were during almost 8000 clinic hours, before completing this role in March 2022. A special thanks to Dr Ursula Brennan who led on establishing this service in Beech Hall Well Being and Treatment Centre in a very short timeframe and a thank you to everyone across Primary Care and the Trust who helped make it happen. This bulletin provides details on the forthcoming Trust/ GP portal and highlights ways of seeking advice on Specialist Palliative Care, Gynaecology and Dermatology.

Online Trust GP Portal

As previously referenced in our January Links edition, Trust and GP colleagues are working to develop a GP facing portal on the Trust website to help mutual communication and information provision. A joint workshop was held on the 9th March 2022 to scope the purpose, most relevant content, style and parameters of the resources and a small sub-group has been commissioned to take this work forward. It is envisaged that we will build this on an incremental basis and hope to have the first iteration of the portal ready for end of May this year. When this is established, it will most likely supersede publication of this Links bulletin and Primary Care colleagues will be able to access the portal for timely information via an HSC email account.

We would still welcome ideas for what would be of most use and so please feel free to contact us with suggestions. Please contact orla.barron@belfasttrust.hscni.net.

Specialist Palliative Care Advice Line – “What, When and How to Use It”

Did you know that Belfast Trust has been offering a specialist palliative care advice line for General Practitioners since May 2021? We would encourage you to avail of this valuable source of specialist advice. Click [here](#) for further details.

GP Rapid Access to Frailty Assessment Unit

Read more about the [rapid access service](#) for patients who present to Primary Care who require Consultant Geriatrician assessment.

Gynaecology

Gynaecology Request for Advice



Aim

- To provide timely advice for patients with gynaecology problems via CCG within 72 hours.
- Initial pilot will focus on patients with general gynaecology conditions.



Queries for gynaecology?
Management questions may relate to;

Abnormal Uterine Bleeding
Benign Pelvic Masses
Pelvic pain

Urinary Incontinence
Pelvic Organ Prolapse

Fertility Questions



Patients that need urgent / emergency assessment

Or

Red flag referrals

These referrals should continue to be made via the usual CCG and acute gynaecology pathways at this time.

Dermatology

You can read more about use of [electronic treatment advice notes](#) (e-TANs) for Dermatology as part of a Quality Improvement Project. You can scan the QR code to undertake a very short survey.



Further information on the request for advice service for GPs is highlighted below:

Dermatology Request for Advice



Aim

- The aim is to provide timely advice for adult patients (>13 years) with **inflammatory skin conditions** via CCG.
- Now available to all BHSCT GP practices

From a pilot in South Belfast, **69%** of requests were managed with Consultant advice and no onward referral needed



When to use:

- Rashes in adults (>13 years) e.g. eczema, psoriasis, urticaria, acne, hyperhidrosis
- Management advice in patients NOT currently under the care of a Dermatologist.
- Photos* very helpful – please attach if relevant and possible.



Not suitable:

- Skin lesions – suspected skin cancer, urgent or routine (refer through usual CCG pathway).
- Dermatology emergencies

*Guidance for using CCG for RFA and photo sharing is attached