

YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER COMBINED NEONATAL AND PAEDIATRIC CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT SERVICE



Background

Following the agreement by the Yorkshire and the Humber Specialist Commissioning Group to support the development of a combined neonatal and paediatric critical care transport service in January 2008 an implementation project steering group was established. The steering group has representation from tertiary centres, secondary care services, commissioning, finance, HR, the Deanery and Yorkshire Ambulance Trust.

The steering group objectives are to develop a service specification for the procurement of the new service. This specification is a detailed description of the function and outputs of the service, the workforce requirements and competencies of staff, ambulance and call centre requirements and location of the team.

The transport implementation project follows a detailed project plan and sets out the work in a number of sub groups:- clinical care, workforce, ambulance and call centre. These sub groups have been working hard over the last few months to agree the service standards and write the specification. Work has completed on the clinical care and ambulance groups and it is hoped that the call centre group and workforce group will complete their parts of the service specification by the middle of September.

This will then enable the commissioning group to work with the procurement collaborative to develop the procurement and tendering process which will advertise for organisations to bid for the hosting and provision of the service.

The implementation of the service will obviously depend on completion of the service specification, procurement of a host organisation, followed by recruitment of the team.

If the project remains on track it is anticipated that the service will be up and running by the winter of 2009.

What will the service look like?

The service will provide a 24/7 transport service for all Neonates and Paediatric Critical Care patients. It is anticipated that the service will run 3 to 4 day time crews to support the acute transfers and non urgent day time transfers and one team with an on call second team available from 10pm until 8am to carry out night time acute transfers.

The predicted demands for the service have been worked up using 2006 data on current activity, out of region transfers, predicted transfers for HD children and DGH transfers that were not time critical.

Which patients will be transferred?

The transport service will transfer all critical care patients; in addition it will transfer non acute neonatal patients. The transfer service will also undertake back transfers to enable care closer to home.

Referring units will be expected to telephone the call centre to activate the transfer. The call centre will take calls from:-

- Obstetric services for maternal bed and neonatal cot(s) availability (if required)
- Neonatal services for all acute transfers, non acute transfers and back transfers
- Referring hospitals for paediatric critical care transfers (including high dependency transfers for designated units)
- PICUs in Leeds and Sheffield for back transfers
- Transfer of acute patients requiring specialist out of region services e.g. burns and cardiac
- Out of region referring units requiring acute transfers at times of high demand when there is no capacity in their local facility
- All neonatal cardiac patients requiring cardiology services

The transport service will not transfer the following groups of patients:-

- Adult patients (from 16th birthday) – with the exception of patients who are over the age of 16 but remain under the care of a paediatrician
- Non critical care inter-hospital transfers of children
- Rapid response helicopter emergency transfers
- Primary hospital journeys
- Time critical patients

Who will work in the team?

The transport team will be established with experienced clinical staff from both paediatric intensive care and neonatal backgrounds. There will be two staff attending each transfer with a single driver ambulance crew. All transfers will be triaged by either the consultant on for transport or the nurse coordinator, to determine the priority of transfer and requirements of the team.

The transport service will work closely with the existing tertiary centres and all acute calls will be conferenced with the receiving units, for advice on the management of patients, prior to and during transfer.

Details on the staffing requirements and numbers of various staff groups are currently being examined together with the competency's each staff group will require to work within the service.. This information will be included in the service specification.

Call centre

The call centre is central to the support of the transport service. Their role is to find available beds for obstetrics, neonates and paediatric critical care, receive and record all calls, set up call conferencing, track the transport vehicles and collect details for audit of transfers.

A single telephone number will be called to access the team. The call centre staff will ask basic questions and contact details of the referring unit, to direct the call to the relevant coordinator. All urgent acute transfers, will be directed to the consultant on for transport and non urgent calls directed to the nurse co-ordinator.

Transport staff will be activated and mobilised for transfer as soon as the call comes into the service to ensure a quick response is achieved for acute referrals, regardless of the patient's destination.

Location of the team

It is anticipated that the team will be located in a central geographical location between Sheffield and Leeds close to the M1 motorway links. This is to ensure effective response times to the main population. The exact location will be determined through the procurement of the service.

Patient flows

The patient flows will follow those of the current service. It is expected that all calls for transfer will come through the transport service as well as calls from obstetricians to find beds for in utero transfers.

How will I find out further information?

We are aiming to set up workshops in the Autumn / Winter 2008 to describe how the service will function and enable staff to have the opportunity to understand the plans in more details.

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