

## Digital Update

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Since the beginning of 2019 we have been working together as system partners to determine the best way to join up information across our digital platforms to improve patient care. Collectively, we have agreed an STP wide digital strategy that has at its centre the creation of an Integrated Care and Wellbeing Record (ICWR). The ICWR will require us to join up information from different electronic patient records across the STP and is seen as fundamental to how we improve the quality of care that we deliver. Whilst the work to determine exactly how we do that is underway, Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust (WHCT) and the Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCGs have been considering if there are steps we can take together to simplify that process and potentially drive benefits earlier.

To that end, we have focussed our attention on out of hospital care delivered by our Primary and Community Care Teams working closely together across Primary Care Networks and Neighbourhood Teams. We have made some great advances over the past two years in sharing clinical information via the EVIE integration engine and in so doing forged a strong relationship with EMIS; however, we have concluded that there are potentially greater benefits from aligning the approach to clinical record systems for these teams on a pan STP basis. What that would mean is that for the physical health neighbourhood teams in Worcestershire, we plan to migrate WHCT staff onto an EMIS Community clinical record system in the same way that physical health community staff in Herefordshire have, thereby matching the system configuration across the STP.

We believe that in bringing the Primary Care and Community Services teams closer together on EMIS and EMIS Community we will maximise the opportunities for our teams to step up and provide the level of integrated care we aspire to. Specifically, we believe that this will provide a strong basis for more seamless information sharing and, crucially, allow us to move more swiftly to adopt Information Governance arrangements that have been developed and put into use in Herefordshire. This will ensure a consistent approach to information sharing across the STP and facilitate improved care for people across the two counties and support the implementation of future ICWR developments. To enable us to progress this and release the benefits we will need all of your support to finalise Information Sharing Agreements which give everyone the confidence that patient information is being handled in the most appropriate way.

Unsurprisingly, the Board of WHCT and Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCGs are clear that such a move does not disadvantage care to Mental Health patients by reducing the level of clinical information currently shared between our physical and mental health teams within our Carenotes system. To that end, we will be using our existing nationally blueprinted Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resource (FHIR) technology to integrate the EMIS Community and Carenotes records in much the same way that we currently can share information between EMIS and Carenotes. We are in discussion with EMIS regarding the accreditation

process for that integration and will complete it as a precursor to the EMIS Community roll out programme.

Turning to Mental Health services, there are two other important developments underway. Firstly, as part of WHCT taking on the provision of Herefordshire Mental Health services from April 2020, there is another pan STP opportunity to simplify our system architecture, namely to migrate Herefordshire MH & LD services off RiO and onto the Carenotes platform. Again, the aim being to remove breaks in systems that could slow down our efforts to share information. Secondly, in terms of the exciting national pilot work being undertaken on transforming Community Mental Health services across Herefordshire and Worcestershire, we will jointly review progress through the course of 2020 to determine whether it is best to hold clinical records on EMIS Community or Carenotes. Clearly, the benefit of sharing between EMIS Community and Carenotes via the FHIR technology will be a huge factor in the overall consideration. For Herefordshire this also provides the opportunity for information to be more easily shared between EMIS and the Mental Health care records, which again standardises our approaches to information sharing across care settings within the STP. Ahead of the switch to EMIS Community, to ensure that we have a standard and common install base across the two counties in relation to these developments we will be making sure all practices and sites are using the same EVIE version (v.1.4). WHCT will be working with and supporting primary care colleagues to enable this upgrade during March and April of this year.

**As a final point, we expect the overall standardisation of the clinical platform across Herefordshire and Worcestershire to be helpful in our ambition to achieve a pan STP Integrated Care and Wellbeing Record.**

There is a lot to do and we are in the process of working up a proposal and implementation plan with EMIS with a targeted go-live for physical health teams of April 2021. We expect to have completed the evaluation of what would be best for Community Mental Health clinicians by the early autumn and should it be decided to migrate elements of those teams, then that would take place as phase 2 of the programme, shortly after the physical health staff.

Should you have any queries about the above programme please contact either Mike Emery at Herefordshire & Worcestershire CCGs or Rob Cunningham at Worcestershire Health & Care NHST.

Regards,

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