

Summary report of the Cross Border Network meeting on 9 May 2016

Introduction

1. The NHS Cross Border Network supports closer working between the NHS in England and the NHS in Wales for the benefit of patients along the border.
2. The Cross Border Network met in Birmingham on 9 May 2016.
3. This report presents a summary of the discussions which took place at the May meeting.

Policy differences log

4. The Cross Border Network discussed the updated policy differences log. This is a document which is intended to track changes across the NHS in England and Wales. It was agreed that this will be developed into a public facing document.
5. The policy differences log will be updated regularly and reviewed by the network on a quarterly basis.

Cross border position statement

6. The Cross Border Network reviewed a draft position statement about the status of the Referral Assessment Service (RAS) project and the progress made to date.
7. The position statement will be made available to the public to clarify the current position of the RAS project and the next steps.
8. The statement focuses on the provision of healthcare for English residents registered with Welsh GP practices, and their entitlements to consultant-led care under the NHS Constitution.
9. It reinforces the strong partnership working across the NHS in England and Wales.

Referral Assessment Service (RAS) project test-phase

10. A six month test phase will take place for referring English-resident Welsh patients through the RAS. This is preferred to a phased implementation.
11. The test will then be evaluated using both GP and patient experience surveys and the outcomes will be summarised into a report.
12. A number of Welsh GP practices have agreed to participate in the test phase.

Information technology systems between England and Wales

13. There was some discussion of the 'joining up your information' initiative which is about improving how patient information is shared across the NHS, including GP practices. A representative from this project will be invited to the next Cross Border Network meeting to present on this.
14. An online care pathway programme that all border GP practices are due to get access to was also discussed.
15. Welsh local health boards were asked to check for local informatics projects that might be happening in their areas.

Principles paper

16. The Cross Border Network discussed a draft paper which would set out the values and principles of cross border healthcare arrangements. This is intended to replace the current cross border protocol when the new arrangements are confirmed.
17. The principles remain central to maintaining good relationships between partners on both sides of the border, to ensure the quality and safety of patient care.
18. Cross Border Network colleagues were invited to contribute to the paper, which will be further reviewed at the next network meeting.
19. It was agreed that following its development any outstanding issues arising from the paper would be reviewed by legal teams in NHS England and Wales.

Handover of secretariat arrangements

20. NHS England are the current secretariat for the Cross Border Network. This arrangement is due to expire in September 2016. The Cross Border Network members were asked to consider who would take over future secretariat arrangements. Interested parties were asked to forward their expressions of interest to the current secretariat.
21. As per the terms of reference for the Cross Border Network, the chair of the network also needs to be reviewed on an annual basis. Network members were invited to contact the existing chair if they wish to be considered for the position of chair.

Public health services

22. Work is ongoing to ascertain responsibility for public health screening and immunisation programmes which are commissioned on different bases, in particular for children. NHS England is undertaking a mapping exercise in

relation to this and will share it with Welsh local health boards for their view. It is anticipated that this will feed into the policy differences log.

Information for the public

23. It was pointed out that some patient groups are not able to access the meeting summary report from the Cross Border Network meetings. It was agreed that CCGs will publish the report on their websites.

Next meeting

24. The next meeting of the NHS Cross Border Network will take place on Monday, 12 September 2016.