At the Close: The Prostate Best Timed Pathway Project

Authors: Satish Maddineni 1, Susan Todd 2
Affiliations: GM Cancer and Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust1, GM Cancer2

The NHSE Best Timed Prostate Pathway

• In GM, approx. 4600 suspected prostate cancer (PCa) referrals p.a. (3350 in 2020 due to Covid impact)
• Straight to test (STT) mpMRI improves sensitivity in detecting PCa compared to transrectal (TRUS) biopsy alone. The national best timed prostate cancer pathway includes mpMRI pre-biopsy with the associated reduction in numbers of prostate biopsies

Fig. 1: The NHSE Prostate Cancer Diagnostic Pathway

Best Timed Prostate Pathway (BTiPP) Project

The GM Cancer BTiPP project supported alignment of our Trusts to the STT mpMRI scan as per the NHSE pathway; reducing the number of prostate biopsies being performed and acknowledging the impact of Covid, assisting with:
1. Compliance with the NHSE 28 day faster diagnosis standard (FDS), from referral to patient being informed of cancer/no cancer
2. Supporting and informing patients/carers during this anxious time to diagnosis, with a named pathway navigator as the main contact at each Trust

Fig. 2: BTiPP: All GM Trusts 28 day FDS Average %

Lessons Learned

1. Value of stakeholder engagement, including user involvement throughout the project
2. Recruitment timescales for new posts (pathway navigators/CNSs) were longer than anticipated
3. Importance of collaboration within & across provider trusts, CCGs & other organisations
4. Reserving (& releasing if not required) mpMRI scan slots across the week important
5. Transformation can happen swiftly (move to LATP biopsy)
6. Baseline/ongoing data via a central dashboard from onset would be ideal (local data collection was time consuming)
7. Bespoke face-to-face training, education and networking were not fully delivered before Covid pandemic, positively this gave the opportunity to perfect remote offerings
8. Telephone consultations worked well and will continue

Fig. 4: GM New Suspected Prostate Cancer Biopsies by Type and %

Reference

1. Implementing a timed prostate cancer diagnostic pathway: A handbook for local health and care systems. NHS England 2018