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News

Electronic system can help embed Cause for Concern registers

Renal units across England are working hard, with support from NHS Kidney Care, to put advanced care plans in place and to develop Cause for Concern registers for end of life patients.



There isn't currently a robust way of communicating this information to GPs, specialist palliative care teams, district nurses and ambulance services involved in a patient's care, or of making the record complete and up to date as the patient's status and wishes change.

The Coordinate My Care (CMC) project is an electronic system that appears to meet this challenge by improving communication amongst healthcare professionals. It was developed by the Royal Marsden after being one of eight sites nationally to be commissioned by the National End of Life Care Programme (NEoLCP) in July 2009 to pilot an end-of-life register.

Evaluation of the Royal Marsden Coordinate My Care pilot showed that 74% of patients on CMC die in their preferred place and only 12% die in hospital (National data - 59% of patients in London die in hospital). Following these positive outcomes from the pilot the CMC system is being rolled out across London by March 2013. It will then dovetail with the rollout of 111 later next year.

The system uses a web-based password protected software package accessed via a secure broadband connection to enable all providers whether in acute or community settings, incorporating both in-hours and out-of-hours providers (including the London Ambulance service), to access information on end-of-life patients (those deemed to be in the last 12 months of life). It is patient centric and all patients are prospectively consented.

Barts Healthcare is designing the renal disease specific page for CMC. As part of the electronic record system there will be a disease specific page that will be adapted to suit specific palliative conditions. Barts' work means that all healthcare providers can be aware when a palliative patient has renal disease and what their specific wishes, management plan and treatment preferences are. Since the introduction of CMC the renal unit at Barts Healthcare has found communication

across both secondary and primary care has become more cohesive. This has led to an improved patient experience and improved outcomes for both the patient and their care givers.

Renal units are asked to contact their regional pilots to explore how their Cause for Concern registers could work with electronic patient records to improve multi agency communications.

To find out your nearest pilot visit the [National End of Life Care Programme website](#)

For more information about the Royal Marsden Coordinate My Care work visit their [website](#)

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