



# NORTHWEST KIDNEY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

## Issue No 3 September 2023

We are extremely proud to present our third Newsletter and the second of 2023. We continue to produce this Newsletter to keep you up to date with what has been going on within the Network and North West Renal community. It has been a busy year so far and we have lots of great news to tell you. As we write this Newsletter we are just putting the finishing touches on the first annual report for the NWKN. This report will cover from April 2022 until March 2023. It should be completed by mid-September and will be available for all to see and read soon.

We held our second joint Education event with KQUIP on July 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Helens Rugby Stadium. This event focused on genomics and workstream projects. In the morning with KQUIP running the afternoon session.

The feedback that we received back from participants was extremely positive.



UK Kidney Week was held this year in Cardiff on 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of June. This was a great opportunity for all things Nephrology to be showcased. A number of our Teams in the North West presented, chaired meetings and also displayed their posters. Beng So from our CKD Team presented a Collaborative National picture of CKD with our Renal Networks teams from London, the Midlands and the North East. It was an excellent Conference and we look forward to 2024 in Edinburgh.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> June the Network hosted an educational simulation event for Renal and critical care nurses about the prevention of venous needle dislodgement. This was a collaborative event with the University of Liverpool, Cheshire and Mersey Critical Care Network, Liverpool University Hospital Trust and the NW Kidney Network. A big thank you to Amanda Balshaw -Greer and Terri Simons for planning and designing the programme for the day. We hope to support more of these days in the future.



We have had a couple of additions to assist with the Transplant project working alongside Dr Shiv Bhutani. We welcome Mr Raman Dhanda, Surgeon from MRI and Mr Sanjay Mehra Surgeon from LUHFT.

We also welcome Dr Adit Jain to assist with the CKD project in Cheshire and Mersey. Adit is a GP at Dinas Lane Medical Centre, Merseyside.

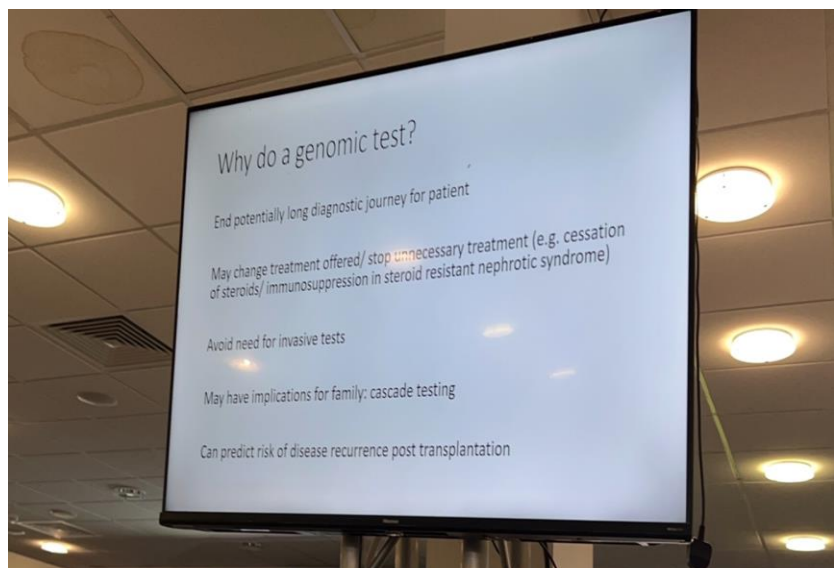
We are currently in the process of speaking with Website designers to build a new NWKN website. This new website will run alongside the current Futures website (not replace it). Our Team members felt that we needed a different

website or platform that was easier for people to access. A modern, more user friendly, accessible, functional and informative website. We will let you know when the website is up and running.

A few words from Rob Finnigan, our Patient Voice manager.

We continue to grow our patient involvement group within the North West and several of them have already begun to work with the North West Kidney Network (NWKN). For example, Debbie and I presented to renal registrars in Liverpool as part of their training and we also spoke at the July 5<sup>th</sup> Genomics event at the Totally Wicked Stadium in St Helens. Both Christy and Tony also attended the event and helped us plan our approach to the launch of the 2023 Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREM) survey which runs from September 11<sup>th</sup> to November 6<sup>th</sup>.

The image to the right is from the Genomics event in July and is a testament to the value of the NWKN, which has been instrumental in developing a referral pathway and recruiting specialist genomics nurses across the region. Patients have also contributed to the



development of the Paediatrics and Transition workstream led by Tina Chrysochou and Amrit Rau.

We are also hoping to appoint three patient advocates from the Jain community with a focus on promoting living donation within that community.

To date, our workstreams, supported by patients, have focused on improving renal services in the North West but we're now moving toward a more patient focused approach, beginning with the PREM 2023 survey and increasing access to Kidney Beam which is designed to improve your physical and emotional wellbeing. Watch this space.

All of our patient group members are amazing, helping us to ensure that patients sit at the heart of the NWKN's work, however, I want to thank Steve Hewitt, who, while no longer a member of our patient group, continues to support quality improvement in the North West and is a powerful advocate for the benefits of home therapies. His professional approach and absolute commitment are an example to all patients; we can all support one another.

### **Data Collection**

Libby is now collecting data from our North West Dialysis units. This data is covering Dialysis Capacity and Workforce. We wish to thank all of the Dialysis Teams for supporting and continuing to submit this information. Our BI Team has now designed a Dashboard to store this Data. We are in the early stages of collection, but we hope that this work will give us a greater insight into our current and future workforce and dialysis capacity.

This will form a collaborative piece of work alongside the London and West Midlands Networks.

### **Update on our current Projects**

- **CKD** For Cheshire and Merseyside – Harsha Wodeyar and Amanda Balshaw- Greer
- **CKD** For Greater Manchester – James Tollitt and Andrew Stott
- **CKD** For Lancashire and South Cumbria - Beng So and Amanda Balshaw - Greer

The three regional CKD projects are seeking to embed CKD within the Integrated Care Boards and in Primary care whilst also Improve identification and coding of patients within the North West with CKD

We plan to ensure that people with chronic kidney disease in England, are identified in a timely manner and managed according to best practice, irrespective of age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or geography. Prevention and management are at the forefront with these projects.

Both Greater Manchester and Cheshire and Mersey are currently seeking funding to embed their projects within each ICB. Applications are currently

ongoing, and we will let you know how we get on. Lancs and South Cumbria are continuing to embed KFRE within the locality.

- **Genomics** – Libby Critchley, Vicky Ashworth, Smeeta Sinha, Helen Stuart, Simon Williams, Josh Storrar and Leeanne Lockley.

This project involves embedding Renal Genomics into clinical practice across the Northwest. The NWGMSA project came to its planned stop in June 2023 with successful outcomes from the collaborative project. The NWKN team would like to thank the NWGMSA team and KQUIP Leeanne Lockley for supporting this project within the NW.

Despite the NWGMSA funded project being formally closed the NWKN leadership team have agreed that the Renal Genomics will move to become a part of the Networks business and now become a Renal Genomics Workstream. Since this transition 4x 4 hours per week NW Renal Genomic Nurse Practitioners have been identified to aid in the promotion, education, MDT and genetic test coordination.

These roles will enable Renal Genetic clinics to take place within additional non-Genetic specialist sites and feed into the NW Multidisciplinary Team meetings held monthly. In the hope that this will address equity of access to genetic testing for the renal community within the NW. The regional MDTs are supported by a number of specialist stakeholders within the NW Genetic and Renal services. The project will be utilising Patient Pass as its communication platform ensuring not only all Trusts within the NW have access to the Renal Genomic MDT and can securing feed data and information to the MDT but allow for an efficient use of time, due to its pre-MDT communication ability.

The project will also be supporting a centralised platform for the NWKN projects. Educational adult and paediatric videos are in production at differing stages, with the adult video now entering the editing phase. Once produced, both videos will be stored centrally for all teams within the NW to access. Sustainability and promotion of equity of access is at the heart of this new phase within the NWKN renal genomics project.

- **Dialysis** – Dr Anu Jayanti and Andrew Stott

There are certain themes of focus within this project. Increasing Home dialysis uptake. Increase PD catheter insertion service and late start PD access. Initiating unit-level data acquisition for a dashboard from all units in the region. Each Unit

within the North West have chosen topics and Themes to work on as part of a QI project.

We are extremely grateful to KQUIP continuing to support the Dialysis teams with QI training for the Dialysis Workstreams.

12<sup>th</sup> September 2-5pm Workshop 3- Developing and Refining Smart Aims and Driver diagrams

15<sup>th</sup> November – Dialysis event with KQUIP. Please Register, everyone is welcome to attend but the focus is on home dialysis. Please use the link to register and pass on to your dialysis teams.

<https://forms.office.com/e/KCLQyPWGd2>

We are now in the position to begin to start collecting data from our North West units. This data will be collated by the BI Team within NHS England and will be linked alongside the dialysis workforce data.

- **AKI** – Shahed Ahmed and Amanda Balshaw- Greer

This project aims to reduce unwarranted variation and improve care, with a systematic approach to prevention, detection and management of AKI. In addition, a team of professionals from the NW have developed an AKI Network to ensure a collaborative approach to implement the recently updated national guidance. Some of these members are leading on work that includes;

1. AKI detection, prevention and management
2. Access to Nephrology service and early transfer
3. Post AKI hospital discharge and primary care support
4. AKI prevention and education

- **Transplant** – Shiv Bhutani, Raman Dhanda, Sanjay Mehra, Andrew Stott

1. This project is aiming to achieve 25% pre-emptive transplant listing or living donor transplant by 2025 (Currently 15%).
2. We are currently reviewing the Transplant work up timeline at various point from each hospital, optimising the pathway based on local logistics and agreed time frame.
3. Review bottlenecks and work on solutions to enhance the transplant assessment pathways.

4. Meet with community leaders across the North West to implement peer support programme/s within the localities

We are also currently working on the standardisation of patient information provided to donors and recipients with a focus on BAME in the North West.

- **Paediatric and Transition to Adult Services** – Amrit Kaur, Tina Chrysochou and Andrew Stott

Transition from children's to adults' services can be a complex process, spanning a range of agencies and specialisms. One of the aims of this project is to produce a Transition policy/pathway embedding Shared Decision Making and objective toolkits for all North West units. First draft completed and sent to Units for review.

- We are currently planning and developing an online educational package for school teachers to understand implications of renal disease on ability to learn and achieve educational potential. We plan to use videos aimed at teachers and school staff of pupils with chronic kidney disease in secondary education, key stages 3 and 4.
- We wish to address How kidney disease affects learning
- What can we do to help pupils achieve their full potential

Once the videos are complete, we hope to place this training package for Teachers on our new website.

### **Workforce and Education-** Helen Hurst, Vicky Ashworth and Libby Critchley

This workstream is relatively new programme within the NWKN and so within its infancy stages. As mentioned earlier within the newsletter workforce and capacity data is now being captured across the NW and will feed into this workstream.

Education has been identified as the initial focus of this workstream with resource scoping and service review being a focus. Observing multidisciplinary differences within the Renal sector. This workstream will commence by engaging with nursing teams' education and learning structures. Stakeholders

of this group will include representatives from formal learning institutes, Universities, Renal Units, Critical Care Network and Trusts teaching and education leads.

This workforce aspect of the workstream is working in collaboration with the Association of Nephrology Nurses and has triggered National interest within the Renal sector.

**Psychosocial Welfare Project-** Robert Finnigan, Dimitrios Poulidakos and Libby Critchley

NWKN Patient voice Manager Rob is an avid advocate for the psychosocial welfare for patients within the NW and supported by Salford Clinical lead and NWKN Clinical co-lead Dimitrios have agreed that this should form a central part of the NWKN projects.

Initial engagement for the project has commenced with Renal Psychologists, Social Workers and other specialist Psychologists has commenced. The project will focus on observing and scoping whether service needs of patients is reflecting within the service plans across the NW.

PREM and Kidney Beam promotion also forms patient of this project with the NWKN creating and announcing a patient promise to renal patients within the NW. The NWKN focus for 2023/24 has been directed to listening to the NW patient voice with, PREM being utilised as the main measures.

**We hope that you have enjoyed this Newsletter. We plan to release another Newsletter in January 2024.**

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