

Information for staff

September 2014



**TRANSFORMATION
THROUGH
TECHNOLOGY**

**It's time
for change
Get ready,
get
involved.**

*"Only one
password,
so easy!"*

Lauren Theaker. GU Medicine, Staff Nurse

**Find out all about the new Clinical
Portal in this issue**

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Sheffield Teaching Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust

This edition of the newsletter provides information about the Clinical Portal which we are planning as part of the Transformation Through Technology programme.



Dr David Throssell,
Medical Director

The clinical portal will enable clinicians and other staff to get a holistic view of each patient's records and any other associated results and information about a particular patient.

We will be purchasing new technology which will act as an umbrella across our current computer systems, meaning you only have to log in once to view all of the different patient information systems, on one screen.

Initially we will provide access to the most commonly used systems, such as ICE, PACs, System One etc, to access and search patient information. It will enable a joined-up, clinical view of every patient and will enable more joined up working between community, acute and primary care colleagues.

The clinical portal will also give people the option of working

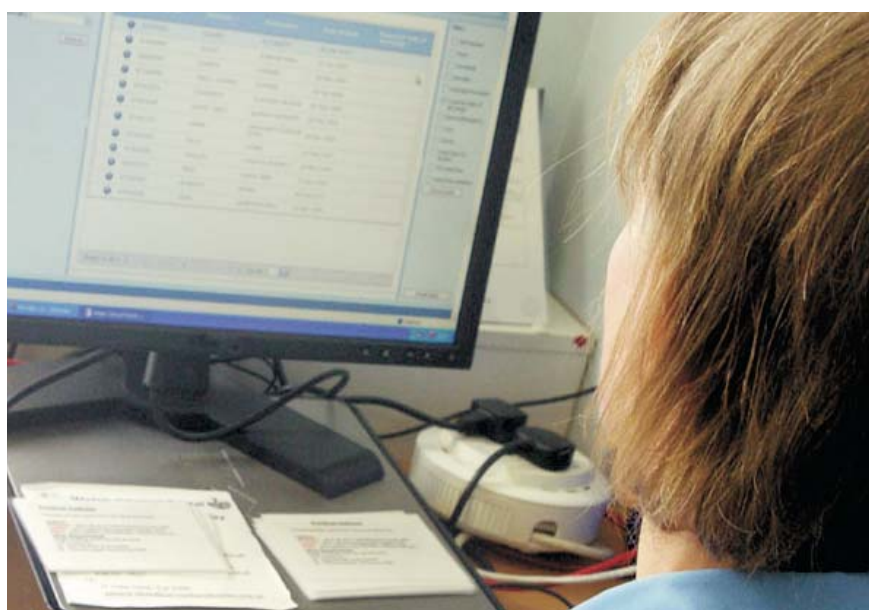
remotely and having the right information available in off site and onsite clinics.

The clinical portal will mean staff do not have to keep asking patients the same questions. Once the information has been inputted into one system, it can be viewed via the clinical portal.

However we have to remember that the technology on its own will not bring the benefits we want. We have to begin now to think about how we can re-design how we work in readiness to get

the very best from the technology which will be in place in the next 18 months. The new Hospital of the Future which is being set up later this year at the Hallamshire Hospital will enable many of you to try out the technology in a clinical setting and consider how you may want to work differently to gain maximum advantage from the new technology and opportunities it will inevitably bring.

Dr David Throssell
Medical Director



What is the Clinical portal?

It is a web-based system that provides a single, unified view of patient information.

It brings together patient information and results from different departments and specialities and also other NHS organisations, giving you a total picture of a patient's care.

The clinical portal will enable clinicians and other staff to get a holistic view of each patient's records and any other associated results and information about a particular patient.

What's happening at STH?

We will be purchasing new technology which will act as an umbrella across our current computer systems, meaning you only have to log in once to view all of the different patient information system, on one screen.

Initially we will provide access to the most commonly used systems, such as ICE, PACs, System One etc, to access and search patient information. Over time it will provide a joined up, clinical view of every patient

How does it work?

Users of the system will be able to log onto it via a PC, laptop, tablet device and longer term via handheld (palmtop) device. This will give people the option of working remotely and having the right information available in off site and onsite clinics.

Sharing information across the NHS

The clinical portal will give us the technology to talk to other NHS organisations, sharing information and getting expert advice. As the NHS advances, other hospitals who have the same technology will be able to join up with us. When a patient is admitted to another NHS organisation or when they are visited by their GP, we will soon be able to share vital information with



Vince Tucker, charge nurse, GU Medicine

“ One thing we are really waiting for is the Clinical Portal as at the moment we have to log into all the systems. From a clinical perspective that is something we are getting very excited about. There will be less potential for error. If you are going to one system and then into another and have to transfer patient identifiers, there is always potential for human error. If this is taken away, it can only be a good thing for our patients.”



Tina Bennett, ICC specialist nurse

“ We're really looking forward to the Clinical Portal - anything with centralised information will be great for us and our patients. We store all our pedigrees on our lap tops, which makes it so much easier, as before we had to pull all the notes. If we're doing an outreach clinic in Chesterfield, for example, we need access to casenotes and sometimes when we get there they aren't there. This will make a massive difference to outreach clinics.”

their healthcare provider. This can only be a good thing for our patients.

Key benefits:

- Single sign on - so staff can log onto one system instead of having to sign in and view lots of different computer systems
- Reduces searching time - bringing together all the systems will enable staff to search for information much easier, using one single search facility
- Enables other NHS organisations to access and read patient information electronically, so we can talk to each other and share information to better plan care
- Safe, secure way to share patient information
- Individual specialties will be able to view bespoke patient information in a single view
- Can track and audit who views patient records- the clinical portal can be audited so we know exactly who is viewing patient information, when and where
- Cancer records available remotely
- Web-based service to enable mobile working

Why are we doing this?

Improving patient care

Patients deserve and expect the best care. A clinical portal will make our working lives much easier and give us the information we need to provide better patient care.

We need to have a complete picture of each patient. The more information we have, the better the quality of care and treatment we can offer. A clinical portal will give us the ability to access everything we need to know, wherever we are and with one click of a button.

Improving the patient experience

Patients tell us they want quicker, more joined up care. They do not like having to repeat information about themselves to multiple departments and members of staff.

The clinical portal will mean staff do not have to keep asking patients the same questions. Once the information has been inputted into one system, it can be viewed via the clinical portal.

Drug information, diagnosis results and other important information about the patient's history will be instantly available across all the different systems, through this new clinical portal. This will vastly improve the overall patient experience within the hospital and when visiting our satellite clinics

Better multidisciplinary working

Strong and well informed multidisciplinary working is vital for high quality patient care. The clinical portal will enable teams of staff to share and discuss patient information more easily, rather than having to look at lots of different computer systems. We will also potentially be able to work with other hospitals to get multidisciplinary support.

Security of patient information

The clinical portal will ensure we adhere to all the standards required for security of patient information. It contains a sophisticated auditing facility so that it records who has used and viewed each bit of information about the patient. This information is not only vital for security, it will provide us with lots of useful information about how we work and treat patients.

Making us more efficient

Introducing this new technology will create a number of efficiencies across the Trust, freeing up time and money to reinvest into patient care.

- Saving time logging into various different departmental computer systems to find out about each patient
- Saving time searching for information
- Enabling mobile working and quicker access to the right information when we need it
- Quicker diagnosis of patients
- No waiting to get vital information which can only be accessed on site
- Less likelihood of information going astray
- More accurate information which in turn will lead to better decisions and better outcomes
- Real time information so better informed staff

Supporting the paperless NHS

The NHS has committed to being paperless by 2018. We therefore need to continue the drive to reduce the need for paper forms, requests and casenotes. Introducing a clinical portal to speed up the



Stephen Payne, clinical coding/data capture

“ We're waiting with baited breath to see what the new system will look like. If everything goes to plan we feel this will be a big improvement which has great potential. Being able to access all the patient information from one hub (the clinical portal) will be great - at the moment we have to access multiple systems such as ORMIS, ICE, Infoflex etc and various other departmental systems and they don't interact with each other.

Clinical Portal feature.... Clinical Portal feature...

availability of patient information is part of this process.

What happens next?

Choosing the right clinical portal

We have been looking at a number of possible suppliers for the technology we need. It is important to choose the right system and get value for money. Our supplies department are supporting this process to help us

purchase the right one. We have been visiting other hospitals who already have a clinical portal to help us understand more about what is needed here in Sheffield. Staff will be able to test and help us develop the system, once we have the go ahead.

The business proposal

Before we can go ahead with purchasing a clinical portal, it is important to outline the business need for the Trust and get approval for this. An outline business case has been

approved and a full business case will be submitted to the Trust Board shortly.

When will it happen?

We aim to begin implementing the clinical portal next Spring.

The Trust Board will be considering the Full Business Case for the programmes in September.

If you would like to know more, or if you have any further questions regarding the clinical portal project, please contact the Transformation Through Technology office at transformation@sth.nhs.uk

For further information on the Transformation Through Technology programme email: Transformation@sth.nhs.uk or call ext 15756

