

Integrated working between Primary and Secondary Care for Urology

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Aim:

1. Integrated working between Primary and Secondary Care
2. Shorten patient pathway
3. Minimise Follow-ups

Advantages:

For the NHS:

1. Shorten patient pathway
2. Deal quickly and efficiently with long waiting lists following Covid 19
3. Increase work force by offering to employ recently retired consultants
4. Only relevant Outpatient work in Hospitals
5. Build sleek stream lined hospitals
6. Money remains within the system.
7. A win-win situation for all concerned, Patients, CCGs, GPs and Consultants

For Patients:

1. Offer Care closer to home for patients
2. Consultant triaged and delivered service
3. Travel to NHS hospital only if secondary care input needed
4. Very high Patient satisfaction rates.
5. Patients either discharged or put on the local Waiting list.
6. Less than 20% needed to return for follow-up.

For GPs/CCG:

1. Financial savings for the CCG due to decreased Secondary Care referrals
2. Income for the GP practice.
3. Minimise investigations, as patient seen personally by the Consultant.
4. A broad based Benign Urology Clinic, so wide range of problems seen (not just BPH)
5. Clinics run in Consultant private time to ensure no encroachment on NHS working time.
6. Many GPs already keen on idea.

For the Consultant:

1. Financial incentive for Consultants. Increase income indirectly.
2. Use of Senior or recently retired Consultants to run clinics,
3. Improved work life balance
4. Improve morale as pay rise was expected

Requirements:

Like minded consultant colleagues who can work with close co-operation

Risks:

1. Patients could be taken to private sector
2. Affect Secondary Care income
3. Junior Doctor Training opportunities affected, but these could be shifted to Primary Care

Future potential:

1. The addition of Flexible cystoscopy work in the Primary Care sector is a distinct possibility
2. Sleek, modern hospitals that cater to appropriate Secondary Care work
3. Use this model as a pilot for other specialities

Conflict of Interest: I run the Charing Clinic in Kent on these principles