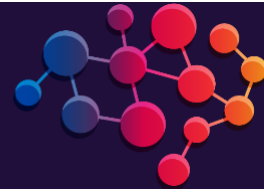


East Midlands Integrated Stroke Delivery Network



Issue 1, November 2022

'Stroke strikes every five minutes'- Stroke Association

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter, a driving force for change

The East Midlands ISDN was developed in April 2021 to address the growing impact of stroke in England. The [NHS Long Term Plan](#) (2019) has recognised stroke as a clinical priority which is why ISDNs in all areas of England will bring services together to design optimal stroke pathways, from pre-hospital to early supported discharge (ESD), community specialist stroke-skilled rehabilitation and life after stroke support.



For more information, please visit the official website [Home - East Midlands ISDN](#)

Meet the team



Kevin Botham
Senior Manager

After a career in sales and management, followed by 13 years as a Paramedic in EMAS, I took on the role of Senior Manager of the ISDN in May 2022, where I can blend my clinical and business background and qualifications to bring about service improvement and improve patient care.



Dr Melanie Blake
Acute Clinical Lead

I am a Consultant Stroke Physician in Northampton and work across the Stroke Pathway. I enjoy the multidisciplinary nature of stroke care and working as part of a team.



Claire Lee
Community Clinical Lead

I have an experience of working in both acute and community settings for the past 14 years. I am committed to leading on quality improvement and strategical development of stroke services. I am passionate about keeping patients and staff at the heart of transformation and to improve the quality of future stroke services.



Wendy Goodenough
Project Manager

I am new to the EMISDN team, starting as Project Manager in October 2022. My clinical background is in Neurological Physiotherapy, specialised in stroke. I am experienced in the management of rehabilitation services in both the acute and community settings and undertook my MPhil in the study of MRI in stroke and the prediction of motor recovery.



Shandana Rehman
Project Support Officer

Following my MSc in Public Health, I have had the pleasure of working in the NHS since August 2020. My dedication to empower and involve disadvantaged groups in decision making and promoting health and wellbeing stems from my meaningful experiences in both Pakistan and England. I look forward to bringing the same drive to the EM ISDN.



Paige Danks
Midlands Business Analyst

I joined the NHS in June 2022 and have been working across the three ISDNs in the Midlands (East, North and West) to provide high quality information and analytical support. From both internally and externally sourced data, to design & provide information that is accurate and complete within agreed timescales, meeting internal and external requirements.

In the know

Pre-Hospital Project

Pre-alert

The National Stroke Service Model recommends the use of a pre-alert system to ensure all patients are met by a stroke team on arrival to a Comprehensive or Acute Stroke Centre (CSC & ASC).

The East Midlands ISDN have been working with the East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS) to introduce a standardised pre-alert process for patients who have called 999 with a suspected stroke.

A pilot study of the process was undertaken at Northampton General Hospital. Following this, a standardised pre-alert document has now been agreed and following approval from EMAS's governance process, will go live at the beginning of December.

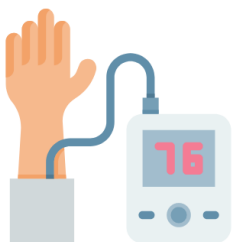
Community Projects



Community Rehabilitation Services Review

In February 2022, the National Service Model for Integrated Community Stroke Service (ICSS) was published with recommendations that all stroke patients discharged from hospital should be seen by an integrated stroke specialised multi-disciplinary team.

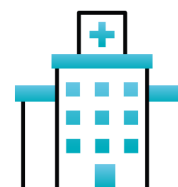
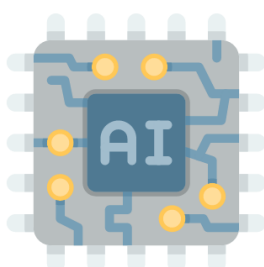
The East Midlands ISDN has just published a review of all community rehabilitation services in the region. This establishes how current services compare to the ICSS model standards, identifies gaps in provision and will inform an action plan to tackle inequalities.



BP@Home

There is robust evidence that optimal blood pressure (BP) management is effective in the prevention of future strokes. Projects monitoring at BP@home have been successfully piloted in other regions with positive outcomes. Our plan is to introduce a BP@Home service for all stroke patients discharged to Community Rehabilitation Teams. We aim to purchase a number of BP monitors to provide to teams across the region. Working with Primary Care Networks and Community Stroke Teams we will then begin the introduction and implementation of this project.

Acute Projects



Mechanical Thrombectomy

Mechanical Thrombectomy (MT) has been demonstrated to significantly reduce disability after stroke. The National Stroke Service Model and NICE guidelines state this procedure should be provided as soon as possible to all appropriate patients, which is up to 10% of all stroke admissions. NUH currently provides this service Mon-Fri, 0800-1800 to all suitable patients in the East Midlands, and is working towards providing a 24/7 service by 2024. We are working with all stakeholders to support the delivery of MT to all appropriate patients through the Artificial Intelligence (AI) project and improved pathways.

Artificial Intelligence

One of the most exciting developments in this area is around the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), used to review CT scans in real time and identify candidates for MT almost instantaneously. This valuable tool can potentially speed up the process of stroke diagnosis, leading to quicker intervention and treatment. East Midlands ISDN has been collaborating with NUH to acquire, install and implement AI, planning to 'go live' at the end of November. We are also working with the ASCs in the rest of the East Midlands to facilitate their rollout of AI, to streamline patient transfers to NUH for MT.

Acute Site Visits

Every acute stroke patient should gain rapid access to a stroke unit and receive an expert specialist clinical assessment, rapid brain imaging and intravenous thrombolysis 24/7 if appropriate and be transferred and treated by MT if suitable. Data on current service provision was collected 2019 by the Getting It Right First Time Programme (GIRFT). The East Midlands ISDN is now in the process of visiting each of the ASCs to explore areas of good practice as well as barriers to implementing their recommendations.

Next Issue

SSNAP regional meeting | Stroke Association | SQuIRE funding bids | Wellbeing Coaching plans | Regional MT Review meetings and more!



Working in partnership with



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For more information please contact us at:

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