- Enabling access to shared community records improving records on significant risks such as allergies and accuracy around what medication had been prescribed
- Saving of clinical time that could be reinvested in providing more time with children and an increased capacity to care for more children and their families
- Improve accuracy in record keeping.

The local General Practices and community services decided to move to one electronic patient system (EMIS web). The hospice was invited to piggy back on the move. Discussions were held with the providers of the system to make the system bespoke for use in the children's hospice. Analysis took place of existing systems enabling them to be transferred to an electronic format. At all stages training, engagement and communication with staff was a high priority to successfully engage them in a significant change to practice.

Findings The nursing team have access to real time information about care episodes for the children both within the hospice and community. The accuracy of recording key information such as allergies and medication histories has improved significantly reducing the risk to patients. The amount of time lost in making phone calls and verifying information in order to deliver care has reduced.

Conclusion Time spent on documentation is more productive enabling more time to be spent with the children and families. The ability to share records with other agencies facilitates collaborative working between agencies.

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'TOO MUCH INFORMATION?' IMPROVING SPECIALIST PALLIATIVE CARE REFERRAL FORMS TO AID SUCCESSFUL TRIAGE

¹Helena Roth, ²Alex Taylor, ¹Charlotte Pay, ¹Mursheda Chowdhury, ²David Barclay. ¹St Michael's Hospice, Hastings, UK; ²St Wilfrid's Hospice, Eastbourne, UK

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Background Good referral forms should cover enough key areas to allow effective triage (Donaldson, Carter & Green, 2000) and elicit complete and clear information from referrers (Depasquale & Crockford, 2005). Feedback from current referrers to two neighbouring hospices covering the same NHS Trust suggested existing referral forms were complicated, time consuming, often necessitating further information gathering before they could be triaged.

Aims To assess the completeness of a sample of referrals to specialist palliative care and the proportion of these that could be effectively triaged given the information provided. To utilise the findings in redesigning the referral form.

Methods Retrospective analysis of all referral forms for new patients received by both hospices during August 2017. Internal/existing patient referrals were excluded. Analysis of completion rates of different sections was undertaken and subjective opinion given by one clinician per site as to whether the form could be effectively triaged. The findings influenced referral form redesign.

Results 205 completed referral forms were evaluated. Of 100 referrals to hospice A, the mean percentage of sections completed was 75% and 82% of referrals could be triaged based on form data alone. Of 105 referrals to hospice B, a mean of 73% of sections were completed and 89% could be triaged. Particular sections of the form were

repeatedly left blank. However, even at the lowest completion rates (23%) forms could be triaged, usually due to information provided in 'any other comments' section. Given these results, the forms were made more concise and included an 'open comments' section. Following stakeholder engagement, 'phase of illness' and 'Australian Karnofsky Performance Status' were added (National End of Life Care Intelligence Network, 2016; Abernethy, Shelby-James, Fazekas, Woods *et al.*, 2005).

Discussion The pilot of the new referral form is currently underway with initial positive feedback from referrers. Preliminary analysis from evaluation of the first pilot forms received, suggests a high proportion can be adequately triaged. Pending further results adoption throughout clinical community is planned.

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IMPROVING CROSS-DISCIPLINARY INFORMATION SHARING

Claire Stark Toller, Sarah De Vos. Countess Mountbatten House, Southampton, UK

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Background We are a large service with a catchment across three Clinical Commissioning Groups, serving a population of 832, 350. We have a 27-bed NHS inpatient unit (IPU) seeing 604 patients/year, a community team (CSPCT) seeing 1642 patients/year and hospital team seeing 1788 patients/year. Our IT system PCS is used across the palliative care service, but is not accessible to GPs or hospital services. Patients travel between all parts of our service and beyond but holistic cross-disciplinary information sharing is limited.

Aim To improve weekly holistic multi-disciplinary assessments of hospice inpatients and share these within and outside the service.

Methods The CSPCT is organised into three teams but the IPU was organised into two teams. IPU teams were restructured to align with the three community teams, with three consultant ward rounds and three post-ward round MDTs each week. A Community Clinical Nurse Specialist now attends the relevant MDT. An electronic holistic assessment form was developed and is projected at MDTs, facilitating communication, capture and dissemination of information within meetings and beyond. The forms are uploaded to the patients' PCS record, accessible throughout the palliative care service.

Results An electronic survey was sent out to all members of the palliative care service. Themes arising include: improved participation from all disciplines; focussed care planning; improved access to and sharing of information; facilitation of better-informed clinical and discharge decision-making when patients moved across the service.

The future Dissemination of the Holistic Assessment Form to all:

- Palliative care service users: uploaded as an attachment on PCS – already happening
- Hospital users: will be uploaded as part of Trust Electronic Document Management System 2019 – to be evaluated
- GPs: to be sent on discharge with patient's Discharge Summary – to be evaluated
- Health and social care professionals e.g. paramedics, out of hours services: to upload to Future Planning Templates.