

TCAM UPDATE Greater Manchester – W/C 18/5/20

- Transfers of Care Around Medicine (TCAM) is an electronic pharmacy referral system providing additional support for patients taking prescribed medication following a hospital stay
- Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust launched TCAM in March 2020 with more than 155 patients completing a medication review with their community pharmacist in the first months
- Salford launched TCAM in 2019 with 2071 patients completing a medication review with their community pharmacist within last 12 months.
- Health Innovation Manchester, the AHSN for Greater Manchester, is supporting the accelerated rollout of TCAM across the city region to enable more patients and trusts to benefit from the innovation during the COVID-19 outbreak.

What does it mean for the patients?

The Newcastle study, BMJ Open Oct 2016, 6(10), showed that those patients who received a community pharmacist follow-up consultation had statistically significant lower rates of readmissions and shorter hospital stays than those patients without a follow-up consultation.

The Newcastle study also showed that the mean number of bed days per patient readmitted within 30 days was 7.2 if they had received a community pharmacist follow-up consultation and 13.1 if they had not received a consultation; also shown to be the same when averaged for 0-30 days and 31-90 days.

Newcastle Study: Readmission rates			Newcastle Study: Average bed days per readmission		
Readmission period	Readmission rate with No Patient Contact	Readmission rate with Patient Contact	Readmission period	Average bed days with No Patient Contact	Average bed days with Patient Contact
within 0-30 days	16.0%	5.8%	within 0-30 days	13.1	7.2
within 31-60 days	9.5%	3.4%	within 31-60 days	13.7	7.2
within 61-90 days	9.4%	3.6%	within 61-90 days	12.5	7.3

What does it mean for pharmacists?

TCAM was commissioned nationally as it was recognised that community pharmacies as a key care provider were often not aware that their patient had been admitted to hospital or informed of any medication changes, so did not have the information they might require to be able to support their patient.

The TCAM service is the electronic sharing of a patient's medicines information between the hospital and the community pharmacy at the point the patient is discharged from hospital. For a number of Trusts, this replaces the old system of faxing and is therefore more secure and timely. The hospitals that have gone live so far have focussed on blister pack patients, for we knew that pharmacies might not be aware of changes in medications and that there is often a quick turnaround needed on these items. The service also establishes the pharmacists as key professionals in the patients care.

At this time, community pharmacies are able to review this information to support their patient as they feel appropriate, some are using it for information, some are undertaking services that are applicable e.g. NMS, MUR