

West Yorkshire Liver Care Operational Delivery Network (ODN) Community Liver Health Checks

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Background: As part of an NHS England pilot, community liver health checks were introduced to West Yorkshire. At the start people came to events and mentioned their waiting list experience for a fibroscan at hospital. From this information a delay in secondary care services was identified.

Methods:

- The admin team at St James Hospital identified patients referred from primary care waiting for a fibroscan.
- Appointments were offered to these patients on the mobile clinic at locations in the community
- This reduced the people on the waiting-list at St James' Hospital referred by their GP
- The admin hepatology team identified patients and planned them by the longest wait first.
- A clinic code was set up for the mobile clinic and community locations identified.
- Patients were given a contact number if the location wasn't suitable an alternative could be booked.
- A clear pathway was identified. Positive scans were referred to a consultant in secondary care and those with a negative scan were given lifestyle advice and discharged.
- More information is available for patients at the ODN website.

Results:

- 1938 patients referred by their GP to the mobile clinic.
- 669 patients were referred, 1269 patients discharged without needing an appointment in secondary care.
- GPs received a letter for all patients seen by the service to place on the patients care records.
- In 18 months, the waiting list at St James has reduced from over 800 patients to 204 and from a 20 week-wait to 3 weeks before a patient will then see a consultant
- Changing the patient pathway has saved £291,870 for the NHS using the mobile clinic vehicle.

Outcome:

The initiative's success has enabled this pathway to be rolled out to other Trusts.

Using a mobile clinic is an effective way to provide care into the community and reduce secondary care waiting lists.

References:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/primary-care/improving-cancer-diagnosis-earlier-detection>