



**Wirral**

**Clinical Commissioning Group**

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## **Re: Freedom of Information Request**

Thank you for your request for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which was received into this office on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

### **You Asked for:**

Following the "End of Life Care Strategy" published by the Department of Health in 2008 ([https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/136431/End\\_of\\_Life\\_strategy.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/136431/End_of_Life_strategy.pdf)) it was expected for all then PCT, now CCGs, to implement better ways of coordination of care for terminally ill patients so "a good death" could be achieved.

Many forms of Electronic Palliative Care Coordination (EPaCCS) resulted. The most extended one is perhaps "coordinate my care"

My questions are:

### **In your CCG cluster, is there an EPaCCS in place? For how long?**

NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) has been part of the Cheshire & Merseyside cluster for EPaCCS, none of the member CCG's have yet to have a fully implemented EPaCCS system in place. Project support regionally was in place to support individual CCGs in moving forward this is no longer funded or available.

### **Can you describe how does it work?**

The current situation in Wirral is Palliative and End of Life patients will have individual care plans that are made available by their GP to the GP Out of Hours provider called Special Patient Notes (SPN), limited information regarding the plan is made available to NHS 111 as the call handling service provider Out of Hours, this prevents patients having to go through initial NHS 111 triage. The ambulance service use a separate system called ERISS which is not linked to Special Patient Notes, information on patients matters such as DNACPR are shared through this route. Regional discussions have been held with the Ambulance Trust about changes to the ERISS system to become compatible with a future EPaCCS model.

### **What is the coverage -among primary care, secondary care, hospices and community services-?**

The Wirral Health Economy embarked on the creation of a Wirral Shared Care Record of which within the agreement EPaCCS is included. The programme has been designed to sit within the the IT system within Wirral's acute hospital provider Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH). The process of signing Information Sharing Agreements (ISA) with our 53 GP has been underway, and will enable a two way process between Primary and Secondary Care to

exist. All 53 GP Practices use the same system, and within this system is an End of Life module that can be used to fulfil EPaCCS requirements. Our local Community Trust Wirral Community Foundation Trust (WCFT) and our local Hospice Wirral St John's (WHSJ) use the same IT System, but are not yet part of the ISA, therefore at this stage a fully integrated EPaCCS system cannot be implemented.

**In particular have interoperability issues (different organisations use distinct software) been addressed? and how?**

Wirral CCG has previously had a contract arrangement to provide access to a Multi Inter-operational Gateway (M.I.G) system as a potential solution to enable the pull through of relevant data between the plethora of IT systems across our providers. This has not been implemented as the project to create and implement the Wirral Care Shared Record through the Cerner Millennium platform has taken precedence over this. Wirral CCG are fully aware that it is mandatory to have an EPaCCS process in place by 2020 and this is included within our operational and strategic plans for Palliative and End of Life Care.

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