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 @TOHETI_Imaging

TOHETI (Transforming Outcomes and Health Economics through Imaging) is a three year Guy's and St Thomas' Charity funded programme, working with NHS partners across Lambeth and Southwark to develop a vision for the future of imaging, with patient experience and outcomes at its core. In July, together with Guy's and St Thomas' Trust, we hosted colleagues from the Virginia Mason Institute, Seattle, to share a different perspective on how to deliver healthcare in a continuously improving model. The visit sparked many new conversations and ideas, and you can read more about the visit below. This month, we feature our research around clinical applications enabled by the new imaging technology of PET-MR. We'll also report back on our work with Emergency Nurse Practitioners in preparation for the roll out of our pilot study on scaphoid (wrist) fractures.

Keeping at the forefront of Imaging Technology: PET-MR

TOHETI funding has enabled a new £3.3 million PET-MR scanner to be installed at Guy's and St Thomas'. The newly installed Siemens Biograph mMR PET/MRI scanner is one of only two in the country, and became operational in October 2014.

Access to this new technology is allowing clinicians to investigate future clinical potential of PET-MRI. Several research projects are in the pipeline, with some already open and recruiting to:

- compare PET/MR to current standard imaging and assess where it provides improvements in patient experience, outcomes and efficiency.
- assess cancer therapy response early to discontinue ineffective treatments.
- investigate opportunities to streamline imaging, reducing patient visits and maximising diagnostic information.

Currently, the most advanced project is the PATHWAY study, which has so far recruited over 50 patients. This aims to increase understanding of which cancers would most benefit from the inclusion of PET/MR imaging, and is currently looking at 11 different patient cancer groups.

Other studies include the FIREARC study which aims to assess the use of PET/MRI in assessing therapy response in patients with primary rectal carcinoma and the METAL study, a pilot and feasibility study designed to assess the anti-tumour effect of Metformin for patients with prostate cancer.



What is PET-MR? As Andrew Mallia, TOHETI Clinical Research Fellow for PET/MR explains:

“PET/MRI is a new hybrid imaging modality, which maximizes diagnostic information by unifying the excellent anatomical (i.e. what cells look like) information from magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and the metabolic information (i.e. what cells are doing) from PET (positron emission tomography) scans.

This “one stop shop” imaging modality makes it more time efficient, with an overall decrease in radiation exposure.

However there is little knowledge out there on which type of cancer PET/MRI would be best suited for imaging.

In this context we are currently performing a single centre non-randomised research study to compare the diagnostic accuracy of PET/MRI in 11 different patient cancer groups.”

As part of Guy's and St Thomas' Fit for the Future Week over 29th June – 2nd July 2015, we were delighted to welcome colleagues from the Virginia Mason Institute, Seattle to share their journey and learning with staff across the Trust.

Virginia Mason are renowned leaders in healthcare, and have over the past twenty years introduced and developed a culture and way of working centred around the patient, combined with a compelling ethos of continuous improvement and elimination of waste. The development and implementation of the Virginia Mason Production System (VMPS), has enabled them – in a relatively short period of time – to move from being a high cost, average quality provider that was losing money to becoming the US hospital of the decade, with the highest quality, lowest cost and best patient and staff experience.



Cathie Furman, a Member of the Faculty of the Virginia Mason Institute and former Senior Vice President for Quality and Compliance, presenting the Virginia Mason Production System



Henry Otero, a Medical Oncologist and Faculty member of the Virginia Mason Institute, leading a session around Cancer services

A key challenge across the NHS involves improving the quality of care and health outcomes within budgets that will grow at a much slower rate than the past decade. There is much that we as a Trust can learn from Virginia Mason, and much to inspire and embolden our thinking as we continue our own Transformation journey.

Certain groups of staff and certain Directorates have already started to make some changes as a direct impact from the visit. For example one General Managers' forum per month is now focusing specifically on improvement and a number of the Directorates are piloting their own bottom up 'Every Day Improvement Ideas' project. Throughout the Trust there are now more 'huddles' being used as opposed to the traditional approach to meetings.

Staff feedback following the visit

"I was absolutely converted by the end of it. It made absolute sense to me that you need a management methodology and I was really taken by the world class management approach. I was very excited by the end."

"We are larger but formed of many small units. The key is culture and leadership. AND upfront investment in providing support for clinical services based on what is actually needed not what has always been done."

"I have already started talking to my colleagues and managers about starting our lean journey in a structured way"

"I will be more courageous in suggesting areas for service improvement and will look to involve clients more in service re-design"

"It has reconfirmed my belief, that everyone should be able to raise concerns easily, because these trigger change."

"I believe the focus on embracing this as a culture across the organisation with such transparency and staff/user engagement would deliver significant benefits."

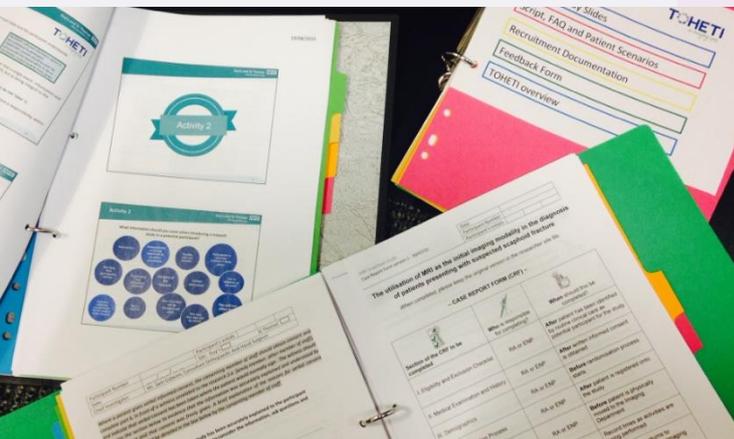
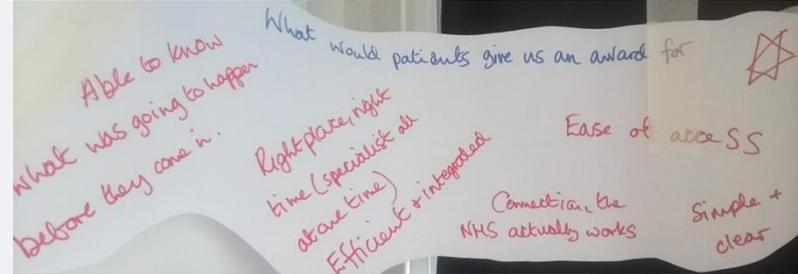
Continence Services Rapid Improvement Week

As part of Fit for the Future week, a rapid improvement week was held around continence services, bringing together a team from across seven different services: Community, Colorectal, Elderly Care, Physiotherapy, Primary Care, Urogynaecology and Urology.

The week aimed to streamline points of access to continence services across community and acute teams, and to standardise care for patients.

Focussing on feedback from over 80 patients, and building on a new assessment tool and pathway that has been trialled by colorectal services over the last six months, the team came up with a single extended service, with one entry point from across all the different services. This will ensure all patients receive the same standard of care, and give fast and straightforward access for patients to the skills of an integrated team.

Work across this pathway is being led by Andy Williams, colorectal surgeon, on behalf of the clinical and admin team. Andy reflected on the week: ***"It was great. Staff from a whole range of specialties with different perspectives having time out together has created a single vision. It's really exciting, but now the hard work really begins!"***



Recruiting patients to the scaphoid study

We are looking forward to the first of our studies getting off the ground soon, with a small pilot study taking place first to test our study design around treatment of scaphoid fractures in the Emergency Care setting.

Over August and September, we have been working with Emergency Nurse Practitioners, who will be at the frontline of our study, identifying potential study participants, and inviting and recruiting patients to take part.

As part of this we ran a series of training sessions, introducing the study and the recruitment process, how to obtain informed consent, and allowing us to tease out concerns and suggestions.

We look forward to reporting back on the Pilot study in our next newsletter!