The Network Approach: A New Model of Care Provision for People with Motor Neurone Disease

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**Network Aim**
Equity of access to, and equality of care for people living with MND in South Wales which meets the MND Association Standards of Care.

**Background**
Historically the model for specialist MND patient care provision has been through regional care centres. In South Wales this effectively reached half of the MND population. The new network approach seeks to deliver better more equitable care for the 170-200 people with MND (pwMND) and their families/carers in South Wales.

**The Model**
Localised specialist MND services
Holistic MDT working with early palliative medicine input
Proactive not reactive, allowing timely interventions
Delivery of care using existing health and social care teams
Cost neutral in terms of teams involved

**The Process**
- Ascertain patients
- Establish Links with professionals
- Baseline audit
- Establish MDTs
- Establish MDT clinics
- Education
- Identify problem areas

**Database**
To facilitate an open and integrated approach to patient-centred care, we have developed a cross organisation, all Wales electronic patient record (EPR) system.

**Outcome**

**Conclusion**
By offering 3 monthly assessments within a clinic setting by all professionals involved, problems can be identified early, interventions discussed fully with the patient and implemented immediately ensuring timely interventions. Providing assessment and care in this way leads to a more co-ordinated approach.

This model of care has benefits for both patients and professionals as evidenced by auditing the service. We are presently developing an outcome framework to further evaluate the impact of this approach on health care and patient outcomes.

Graphic representation developed using qualitative data provided by patient satisfaction questionnaires containing ‘Key words’ used by patients to describe the Service.

‘This is much better use of my time and resources’ (Physiotherapist)

‘I feel much more supported in caring for pwMND, I no longer have to deal with this on my own and referrals are much easier’ (Nurse)

‘The clinic is fantastic - having met the clinic team I feel reassured that I have the support I need now and in the future’ (Patient)