

A DECLARATION OF JOINT WORKING BETWEEN NORTHWEST ANGLIA TRUST AND ASTRAZENECA UK LTD

NW Anglia Trust and AstraZeneca Ltd are engaged in a Joint Working Project entitled, Implementation of a New Heart Failure Diagnostic Pathway – Project HARMONY.

The aim and objectives of this project are listed below:

**Aim:**

To reduce diagnostic HF echo wait times by implementing best practice from the OPERA study to streamline the HF diagnostic pathway.

**Objective:**

To partner with Peterborough Hospital to implement project HARMONY into its local HF diagnostic pathway. This will include implementation of the following ‘critical success factors’:

1. Standardised echo referral (template).
2. Active Clinical Referral Triage
3. One-stop diagnostic clinic.
4. Virtual consultant review (clinical outcome letter template).

The project will run from September 2022 – February 2024. Both parties have contributed resources to the initiative.

Through the project it is anticipated that there will be a triple win for the NHS (National Health Service), Patients and AstraZeneca, these will be measured against baseline (where metrics are available i.e., QoF (Quality and Outcomes Framework), patient records)

**Patient:** Reduced time waiting for a diagnostic echo, earlier diagnosis, earlier therapy initiation, better patient experience; access to HF reviews and cardiac support services which will contribute to better outcomes. Improved patient journey: shorter waiting times, streamlined care and reduced number of healthcare touchpoints will drive better patient experiences with the health service.

**NHS:** The NHS will benefit from having a streamlined pathway; efficient use of the service and increase the capacity of cardiology specialists care to ensure equality of care. Accelerated access to diagnosis and initial HF treatment. Learnings from implementation of this model in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Glasgow suggest that waiting times for echo were shortened from 12 months to 4 weeks within a 6-month period.

**AZ:** This project will increase the number of patients diagnosed with HF. Increasing prevalence and patients of HF registers. The implementation of this pathway is expected to provide earlier access to heart failure guideline recommended therapies following a heart failure diagnosis. AstraZeneca manufactures medicines for the treatment of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction, therefore, the prescribing of these medicines may increase. This project is not reliant upon prescribing of AstraZeneca medicines and the decision to prescribe will remain with the clinician in line with local protocols and guidelines.