Bolton Primary Care Trust

NHS Care Record – Summary Record – Executive Summary

Report for: Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (6th March 2007)

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1.0 Background

The NPfIT is a programme specifically aimed at the long term vision of a unified NHS IT system. This will be made possible by using a highly developed Information and Communication Technology (ICT) platform. This platform will enable patient record details to be accessed anywhere in England via the patient's unique NHS number. The solutions developed by NPfIT and NHS CFH will be implemented incrementally giving patients' greater choice, more involvement in decisions about their own care and access to and involvement in their own records over time.

Bolton Primary Care Trust has been selected as one of 6 trusts across the country to become an early implementer to the 'Summary Health Record'. Bolton PCT is in the 1st Wave of two PCT scheduled to go live first in the country.

The summary record is a National Programme application which will be populated by information held on GP Clinical Systems and will be deployed across Unscheduled Care setting via a 'Clinical Spine Application' (CSA or Web Based Tool). Access to this record will be controlled via personal Smart Card which are used to access other national applications such as Choose and Book and the Electronic Prescription Service.

Historically clinicians working in such locations as Emergency Departments and other unscheduled care settings have had scant access to information about a patient's previous medical history and have been forced to rely on the patient and their family to correctly recall and convey information that may be vital to the safety and effectiveness of clinical decision making. Reliable information about previous diagnoses, current medication and drug allergies and adverse reactions can provide a valuable contribution towards optimising both the diagnostic process and subsequent clinical management.

The Summary Record will develop into one logical record of all information about a particular patient, parts of which will be held on local databases and parts on the national database. The general practice contribution will be a set of summarised data from the general practice clinical system and uploaded onto the Personal Spine Information Service (PSIS) part of the national database. Access to the Summary Record will be via a Clinical Spine Application (CSA) which is a web based tool.

Professor Mike Pringle, National Clinical Lead, has stated that;

"The purpose of the Summary Record is primarily to act as a source of information to support first contact care and less complex care across organisations. This could include out-of-hours, accident and emergency care, ambulance services, treatment of temporary residents, on first presentation at a new practice and on acute admission. When a care professional is seeing someone for a straight forward problem, the Summary Record will often be all they need to supplement their own records in order to deliver safe care."

2.0 Milestone Timetable for Bolton PCT

- PCT project plan agreed – Dec 2006
- First two practices selected – Feb 2007
- Concept Training starts – February 2007
- GP System Training – March 2007
- MP Briefings – 7th March 2007
- Patient publicity campaign (1st two practices) – 8th March 2007
- Patient publicity campaign remaining practices – April 2007

- Roll out to 60% of practices by June/July 2007
- CSA Training Commenced –June 2007.
- CSA Live – July 2007

Bolton PCT is currently working with two practices in Bolton and intends writing to all registered patient over the age of 16 who attend those practices to inform them about the project, what a Summary Record is, and the individual choices they have.

3.0 The Consent Model

The Information Commissioner has support the implied consent model recognising that it would not be practical to obtain the explicit consent of every patient across the country.

The implied consent model is only being applied to the upload of current medications, allergies and reactions to drugs. As the record develops to include a full summary of their Health Care including major diagnoses patients will be able to discuss with their GP and make choices about what information should go into their summary record and what information the patient is willing to share.

If a patient does not opt out within 8 weeks of the date the letter is received, a summary record will be created for them. Additionally, the record will not shared for a further 8 weeks giving the patient plenty of opportunity to exercise their choices.

It should be noted that at any time a patient can decide to change his/her mind and remove their summary record or have one created if they initially opted out of having one.

It is recognised that there may be patients/members of the public who may require more information in order to exercise their choices. With this in mind, additional support is being made available via a dedicated helpline and a series of local drop in sessions are being established at both of the practices as well as at Lever Chambers Centre for Health.

3.1 Progress to date

The project is progressing as expected and in line with the local implementation plan.

Following the initial two practices, it is expected that by early April 2007, all patients across Bolton will be written to and that by the end of May/early June the majority of patients in Bolton will have a Summary Record.

Once we have around 60% of Bolton Patients with a summary record, the use of the Clinical Spine Application for accessing that record within an unscheduled care setting becomes viable.

In May 2007, Health Space will enable patients to access their own summary record. During April 2007, the PCT will be planning a separate communications campaign to develop awareness of the service, the benefits it will offer and how to register.