

GGC HEART MCN KEY MESSAGES – JULY 2017

- **Primary care BNP blood tests for the diagnosis of heart failure**

After a successful pilot, in the Renfrewshire area, in which GPs were given direct access to BNP blood tests for patients with suspected Heart Failure. It is now planned to roll out this access to all GP practices in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS board area from September 2017.

This will mean a change in the Heart Failure diagnostic Pathway (Sci Gateway referral to be updated before the roll out begins), that before referring a patient with suspected heart failure to the HFDP a GP should first request a BNP blood test .

The Renfrewshire pilot concluded that providing access to BNP in primary care cost efficiently improves the patient journey, immediately reduces delays in excluding HF as a diagnosis, reduces referrals to the HFDP, reduces the number of secondary care attendances for these patients, reduces waiting times for echo, cardiology review and thus diagnosis, improves the diagnosis of heart failure and other cardiac pathology for these patients and reduces the risk of emergency admission or death prior to commencing treatment.

To support the successful roll out of the revised heart failure diagnostic pathway and Primary care access to BNP blood tests the MCN are arranging three education evenings with the main focus of the evenings being on heart failure and the revised pathway .

These education evenings will run from 18:30- 20:45 and will take place on:

- Thursday 24th August at the Epilepsy centre Govan Glasgow
- Thursday 31st August at the Campanile Hotel SECC campus Glasgow
- Tuesday 5th September at the Glynhill Hotel Paisley Rd Renfrew

To register for any of these events please e mail alan.foster@ggc.scot.nhs.uk stating which one you would like to attend

- **Re-access to the Heart Failure Nurse Liaison Service**

Heart Failure Liaison Nurse Service (HFLNS). If you identify such a patient who has had a recent admission to hospital with heart failure secondary to LVSD and not been picked up by the service, contact your HFLNS to arrange follow-up. This can be done by phone, email or in writing not via cardiology SCI referral.

Once heart failure symptoms are stable, treatment optimised and appropriate self management and social needs are met then patients will no longer receive planned HFLNS support. Any patient who develops worsening symptoms however, may re-access the service either through their GP as indicated above, or may contact the service themselves on the following numbers: QUEH 0141 451 6078 /6079 :GRI- 0141 211 4543; WG 0141 201 0383; RAH 0141 314 9701; Vic ACH 0141 347 8076; IRH 01475 505130; Stobhill 0141 355 1840;

Please send any comments on these key messages or any other Heart MCN issue to:
Dr David Murdoch- Heart MCN lead clinician/ Consultant cardiologist

David.Murdoch@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Dr Ronnie Burns – Heart MCN primary care lead /GP

Ronnie.burns@NHS.net

Alan Foster – Heart MCN coordinator

Alan.foster@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

