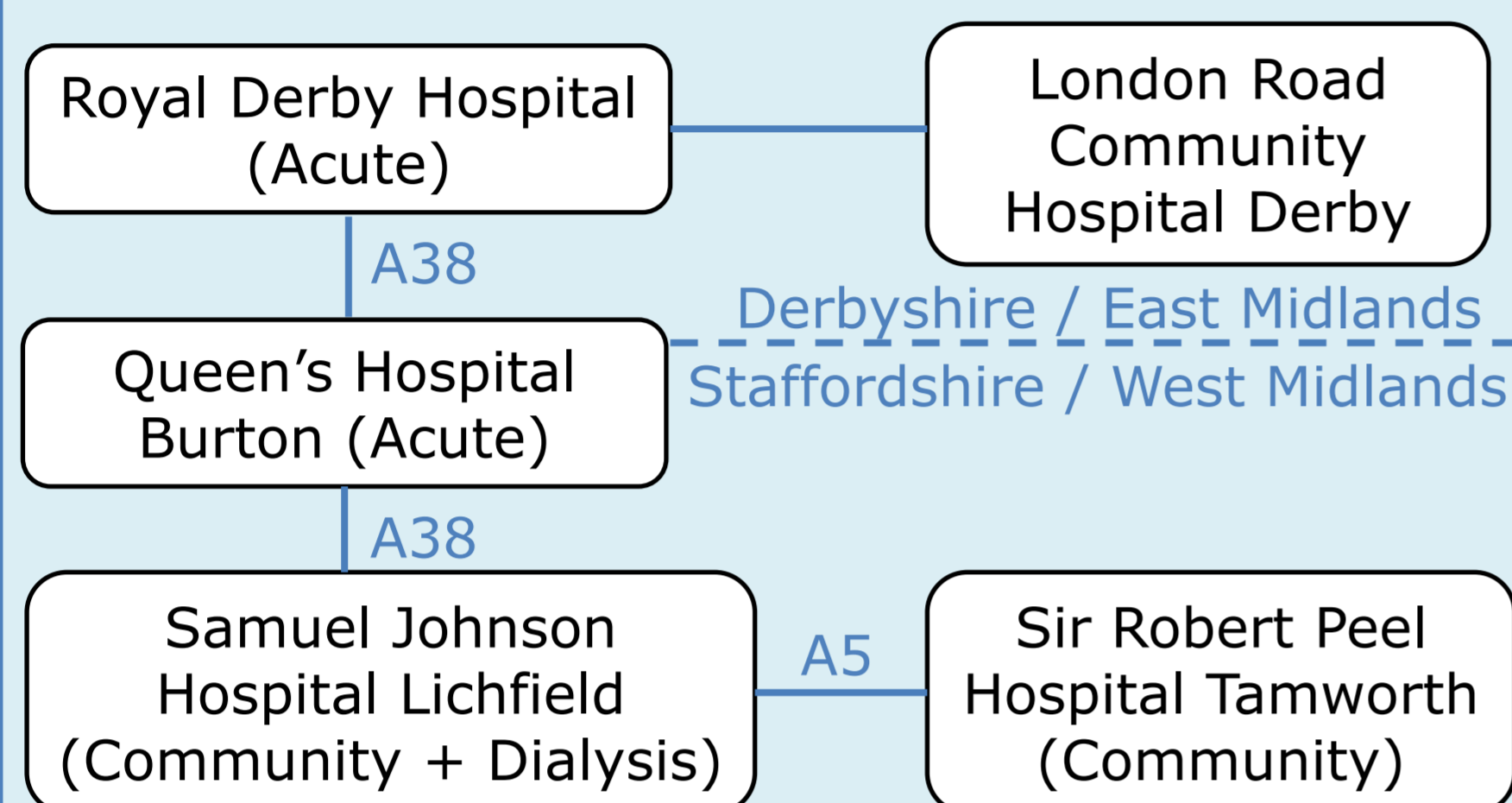


Consolidation of medicines information in a merged acute trust

Thomas Morley, Lead Medicines Information Pharmacist, Royal Derby Hospital

Background

In 2018 two neighbouring acute trusts, Derby Teaching Hospitals and Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trusts (DHFT and BHFT), merged to form University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust (UHDB). The new trust includes five sites spread across two counties, straddling two traditional regions of East and West Midlands. A unified approach to medicines information was sought across the new trust.



Pre-merger arrangements

DHFT:

- Medicines information pharmacist and pre-registration rotation at Royal Derby site
- Enquiry answering, patient helpline and proactive output combined with ward commitment
- Reasonably extensive resources both electronic and paper^{1,2}, although many paper resources dated
- Out-of-hours MI service provided by on-site pharmacist with full access to resources and MiDatabank

BHFT:

- Medicines information pharmacist at Queen's Burton
- Role largely IT/EPMA combined with ward commitment, ad-hoc enquiry answering largely undocumented (no MiDatabank or alternative)
- Queries generally dealt with by ward pharmacists
- Smaller range of resources
- Out-of-hours on-call from home with minimal MI resources

Post-merger plan

- Medicines information based at RDH to take L3 and complex L2 queries from all sites
- Medicines information pharmacist at QHB needed to continue IT/EPMA role
- Arrange resources via RDH: consolidate, update and ensure general resources available across all sites with more specialised concentrated for MI at Derby to support across entire trust as 24/7 on-site pharmacist presence

Implementation

MI resources:

- Review of online subscriptions and paper resources held at RDH for Derby sites: up-to-date resources obtained for psychiatry, anaesthesia, medical statistics, pharmacokinetics; resources also opportunistically obtained for obstetrics/gynaecology, ophthalmology and maxillofacial/head-and-neck
- Up-to-date paper resources for pregnancy and psychiatry obtained for QHB, SJ and SRP sites¹
- Review of online resources for QHB, SJ and SRP sites¹ including MedicinesComplete options; shared access to existing Micromedex subscription; Medusa link embedded in Meditech point-of-care system for all staff; additional Renal Drug Database subscription to Derby's (cost shared 50/50 with renal department)
- Maximised use of free-access resources²
- Summary "Useful URLs" list circulated for QHB, SJ and SRP sites analogous to that already in existence for Derby, listing addresses, login details and uses for online resources

Query handling:

- L3 and complex L2 queries via MI at RDH
- Other queries via ward pharmacists first-line
- MI patient helpline at RDH taking calls from across trust, subject to presence of MI pharmacist

Education:

- QHB pre-registration pharmacists undergoing MI rotation at RDH
- MI resource familiarisation sessions by RDH MI pharmacist at QHB, SJ and SRP sites
- General resource familiarisation session for independent prescribers from across the trust

Learning points

- Resource needs of specific sites (e.g. with presence of dialysis unit) and removal of unused subscriptions (extemporaneous excipients when not making)
- Different sites' resource use arrangements and applicability of UKMI discount
- RDH staff unavoidably have "unfair advantage" of being able to approach directly / "bounce ideas" while not "known face" at QHB, SJ and SRP sites
- More general trust merger factors such as IT networks, East and West Midlands regional arrangements, different initial finance ledgers

Future plans

- MiDatabank access at QHB via sharer function
- Advertising MI service to potential users (piloted at RDH via monthly prescribing newsletter)
- Review of workload following advertising, consideration to MI technician business case

References

1. UKMI. Resources for purchase by NHS medicines information services. March 2019. Accessed via <http://www.sps.nhs.uk> on 03/06/2019
2. UKMI. Resources with free access for NHS medicines information services. March 2019. Accessed via <http://www.sps.nhs.uk> on 03/06/2019