

Health Innovation Network

Transfers of Value Disclosure: Health Innovation North West Coast / Cepheid Europe SAS. Acute Respiratory Tract Infections Community Test and Treat Pathway Evaluation

(Health Innovation North West Coast formerly known as 'Innovation Agency, the Academic Health Science Network for the North West Coast' until 30th September 2023)

Background

Both primary and secondary care struggle with winter pressures but historically incentives have not been aligned to secure the best outcomes for patients and taxpayers. Integrated Care Systems provide an opportunity to align incentives and implement new 'test and treat' pathways which have the potential to significantly reduce pressures on hospitals, optimize resource utilization across the healthcare system and improve outcomes for patients and potentially improve antimicrobial stewardship.

The existing care pathway for patients with suspected Acute Respiratory Infection in Primary Care is empirical and based on the best judgement of the treating clinician.

Primary care can treat at risk cohorts with antivirals when given authorization by the Chief Medical Officer, however, in the absence of diagnostic certainty, the delays in presentation and side effects of antivirals, many practitioners choose to err on the side of caution and administer prophylactic antibiotics.

Health Innovation North West Coast propose to lead a real world evaluation that will explore the clinical and economic impact of introducing on-demand, rapid PCR point of care systems and tests in primary care and the resulting pathway changes.

Real World Evaluation Approach

The point of care tests will be deployed into a complex real world setting with multiple external influences. As such, theory-based real world evaluation methods are more appropriate than an experimental study design. Theory-based evaluation is explicitly concerned with both the extent of the change and why the change occurs.

We will work with a large PCN pilot site and a comparator site in the North West Coast to implement the tests and design the theory of change. We will co-design the pathway, the theory of change and measurement strategy with our NHS partners, to ensure we capture metrics that not only demonstrate the effectiveness (or otherwise) of the new pathway, but also capture the impact on workflow, workload and skill mix, both in primary care and for the local laboratory.

The goal is to improve outcomes for patients with acute respiratory infections and assist anti-microbial stewardship through the implementation of PCR systems and testing capacity in the community.

Disclosure

Organisations involved	Health Innovation North West Coast - hosted by Liverpool Heart and Chest Foundation Trust Cepheid Europe SAS
In-kind benefit or value received	Collaborative Agreement to the value of £125,704 exclusive of VAT in financial contribution to Health Innovation North West Coast. Benefitting Health Innovation North West Coast
Dates covered	December 2023 – June 2024
Summary of in-kind benefit or value received (one sentence)	This collaborative agreement supports the project to evaluate acute respiratory infection test and treat pathway in the community.
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