



Education and Training Strategy

2024/25

Document History

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Associated Documents
Education Programme 2024

Introduction

The North East and North Cumbria Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Network was formerly established in January 2020. The key priorities and work of the Network team is determined by the Network Board which has representation from all 8 Trusts from across the North East and North Cumbria.

The Network covers a population of 2.9 million people in the North East and North Cumbria, and is hosted by the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust.

Our vision is to provide high quality, equitable care for congenital heart disease patients wherever they live within our region; provided closer to home when possible, ensuring seamless transition between fetal, paediatric, and adult services and providing a holistic approach to care.

Our six key objectives are:

1. Increase patient and stakeholder engagement to improve inclusivity and listening.
2. Ensure equitable and lifelong access to holistic services for all CHD patients.
3. Provide strategic direction for high-quality care throughout the CHD network.
4. Promote inclusive and innovative CHD research initiatives.
5. Enhance “global” collaboration to increase the CHD network's impact.
6. Support ongoing workforce education and training, increasing general awareness.

Training and Education Objectives

Our vision is to support through education and training the delivery of high quality congenital heart disease (CHD) services for patients and families in the North East and North Cumbria.

Education plays a crucial role in sharing knowledge and skills to enhance practice and develop the workforce. Delivery of training and education is an essential role for the network and an area of development that has thrived over the three years of network development.

The aim of the network education programme is to promote and ensure access to specialist continued professional development and education. We aim to ensure that we promote clinical education across the region and provide opportunities for all groups of professionals to engage in education. Our objectives are to;

- Ensure that the education and training provision within the network is accessible to all healthcare providers to ensure
- Provide high quality knowledge and skills based education across the region
- Promote the value of clinical education and training to all healthcare providers
- Further develop an educational platform to enable convenient access to education

- Build and develop relationships with key stakeholders across the region to facilitate effective communication pathways to promote education events
- Ensure collaborative design of education programme with all healthcare teams in the regional network
- Develop confidence and competence within regional teams with enhanced knowledge and skills in the management of patients with congenital heart disease

The network education programme aims:

- To extrapolate learning from a variety of case study discussions and apply this learning to practice
- To develop skills in the management of patients with congenital heart disease
- To acquire skills in the ABCDE approach and apply this rational to clinical practice
- Distinguish normal values appropriate to age and congenital heart lesion
- Acquire knowledge of common congenital heart disease lesions and the impact this has on the patient's condition across the life span of the disease
- Recognise signs and symptoms of heart failure
- To have an awareness of pathways of care to support the person living with CHD
- To develop relationships and collaborative working within the region and beyond

Our education programme will be delivered both virtually and face to face and will be a blend of standard topics relating to the care of CHD patients and more bespoke learning based on situations experienced by clinical teams across the region.

The network website and YouTube channel will be the link to all educational material and recording ensuring that all clinical staff have access to information discussed at the training sessions. The website and social media channels will be used to promote network educational events as well as local, national and international events by wider network colleagues.

Stakeholders and Collaborations

We have developed significant relationships with key stakeholders in the network and together we have delivered excellent education opportunities for professionals in the region and nationally.

NECTAR have been significant in the joined-up approach to addressing the educational and training needs of the network members. Our Paediatric Critical Care and Surgery in Children network partners have also worked closely with us to embed CHD education into their network education schedule. The in-situ simulation programme has been instrumental in building relationships with regional teams and this will be further developed when we undertake the skills assessments later this year.

The network successfully funded a band 6 clinical educator post to work jointly across the inpatient ward and HDU at the specialist surgical centre and across the network. Appraisal of this post has been favourable with job satisfaction and improved network relationships a measurable outcome. The educator has contributed to the delivery of

the simulation programme and delivery of webinars and face to face education sessions. This post has now been adopted by the host organisation with a commitment to continue the relationship and support offered to the network education programme. The post holder will support the development of the regional HDU pathway of care through development of competencies supporting level 2 patients with CHD safely moving across the region.

We worked with the Yorkshire and Humber CHD Network to deliver an online half-day training event covering heart disease in pregnancy. The event was very well attended with over 80 healthcare professionals dialling in from across the country. Due to its popularity this event will be part of the online training programme and will run annually in December.

Achievements to date

The network has hosted a number of education events aimed at both healthcare professionals as well as patients and families.

The network hosted a transition education workshop for young people 14-18 years who had received care at the CHD specialist centre as part of the lost to follow up project. A one-stop education event, designed to educate and empower young people living with CHD as they navigate their transition into adult services. Feedback from the workshop has led to the development of psychology projects and informed the newly developing transition service at the specialist surgical centre. The network is supporting the psychology service to deliver bespoke education for patients and families to be delivered via online workshops in Autumn 2023.

Healthcare professional education evolved in line with the covid-19 restrictions seeing several training sessions delivered virtually. The network and expert faculty contributors delivered online webinars and face to face study days, covering clinical and psychological aspects of care across the lifespan of the disease. Webinars included live simulation and debrief, which was hugely successful and valued by those who attended. We have been successful in engaging a range of professional groups in the workshops, providing feedback which had led to the design of study days addressing their specific educational needs.

The lead nurse and clinical leads for the network contributed to the congenital heart disease eLearning for Health module and rolled this out in the region. The platform has been added to the mandatory training catalogue within the specialist surgical centre and has been added to the preceptorship package for new starters in the region in most organisations.

We worked with the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust skills academy to commence the Certificate in Improving Clinical Practice in CHD, a five day programme, hybrid model, commencing November 2023.

The network supported the design and delivery of a hands on, interactive 2-day 3D paediatric congenital heart disease ECHO course, delivered in November 2021 and May 2022, with another planned for May 2024 to include adult congenital disease ECHO.

With the support of our charity partners, Chuf, it has been possible to deliver the in situ simulation programme across the region, taking the learning opportunity to the workplace to accommodate daily work pressures providing hands-on training opportunities. So far we have successfully delivered simulation training in all but one provider in the network, replicating XXX clinical scenarios. Due its popularity it will form a core educational tool in our training programme for which the clinical educator will be central in delivering. The availability of a dedicated clinical educator to deliver this programme will enable us to broaden our portfolio of scenarios and facilitate equal access to clinical teams across the region.

The case study presentations element of our learning has proven invaluable to clinical teams across the region with most attendees requesting further dedicated sessions to learn from case studies. We would like to develop a bi-annual case study education event which includes presenters from all fields of CHD practice delivering case discussion, key shared learning points and recommendations. Our inaugural study day took place in April 2022 but with growing network commitments we have been unable to facilitate more frequent study days. However, our next is planned for December 2023 to include case presentations covering the full lifespan of CHD.

Learning Strategy

The ambition of the network is to educate and train multidisciplinary staff working in our regional centres and community services with the knowledge and skills to deliver care for patients with CHD. Our education is targeted towards, but is not limited to, the following staff groups

- Ward nurses
- Link nurses
- Childrens Cardiac Nurses
- Nurse practitioners
- Midwives
- Sonographers
- Physiologists
- NICU/SCBU
- A&E
- GP and practice team
- NETAR
- Neonatal transport
- North East Ambulance Service
- North West Ambulance Service
- AHP teams
- ITU
- HDU
- Palliative care
- Patient and parents
- Schools
- Charities
- Voluntary organisations

We want our patients and families to receive high quality, person-centred care in the appropriate setting and to have the confidence in the staff who will be delivering their care. We want our staff to feel supported and enabled to work collaboratively across the network.

Knowledge and skill requirements

There are some core skills and knowledge that staff should understand, to assist them in caring for the patient with CHD. These include:

- Assessment skills – Staff will require a minimum level of competence, knowledge and skill to be able to assess patients with CHD, and recognise when and how to seek expert advice and support.
- Knowledge of the most common CHD conditions, incidence and specific nursing care related to the patient group.
- Awareness of the services and resources available within the Network.
- Improved communication and understanding of the CHD pathway.
- Understanding of the psychosocial impact and effects on the child and family.

Education and training delivery

As we develop as a network, we aim to maintain a robust education structure within the region and beyond to increase the confidence and competence of those managing the care of patients with congenital heart disease across the lifespan.

The network will use a variety of media and methods to deliver education and training virtually and face-to-face. A calendar of training events for each stage of the patient pathway, fetal, paediatric, adult congenital and pregnancy, will be published annually.

A clinical educator will deliver training in house to all staff in the network which will include bespoke simulation-based training. The network will establish a link nurse within each of our level 3 centres who will attend informal learning sessions at the specialist surgical centre and will work collaboratively with the lead nurse and clinical network educator to deliver bespoke local training sessions.

The clinical network educator will be central to delivering this education strategy both regionally and nationally. The key objectives of the role include;

- Collaborative development of education programme
- Ongoing development with stakeholder input
- Promotion of regional education events
- Develop CHD champions to signpost teams
- Provide support at education events across the region
- Seek views of patient representatives in the education design and delivery
- Engage charitable partners to promote and support education
- Evaluate education and teaching to shape future development of programme
- Promote national and international courses and conferences
- Signpost teams to teaching tools and professional development competencies

Programmes of education

The network has established a **formal programme** of education which includes;

- ECHO course
- Certificate in congenital heart disease

We have a series of more **informal events** where healthcare professionals can learn more about caring for people with CHD.

- Nurse practitioner lifespan CHD
- Challenging airways (anaesthetic clinicians)
- Emergency management of ACHD (ED clinical teams)
- Heart failure in CHD (Primary care, ED, cardiac rehab teams)
- Cardiac rehabilitation (Primary care, Cardiac rehab teams, Freeman ward teams)
- Transition, a holistic approach (Clinical teams regionally)
- Psychological health and wellbeing in CHD (Clinical teams regionally)
- In situ simulation Paediatric (all sites regionally)
- In situ simulation Adult (all sites regionally)
- Paediatric ECG and arrhythmia (Paediatricians, Practitioners, Ward teams)
- Case study MDT session (all clinicians)
- Heart disease in Pregnancy (Y&H collaboration)

In addition to the education programme for healthcare professionals we have designed a series of events which will provide **patients and families** with the opportunity to learn more about their condition and associated problems.

- Living well – holistic approach (Transition and young adults)
- Psychological well being (All patients and families)
- Medication management (All patients and families)
- Family education engagement events (All patients and families)
- CHD awareness week (All patients and families)
- Family engagement events – family fun days (All patients and families)
- Patient information day (All patients and families)

Evaluation

The success of the education and training strategy will be reviewed by the Network board annually based on feedback from events.

- Key stakeholders will provide feedback to shape ongoing development of the programme reviewed against the objectives set by the Network
- Activities will be reviewed against the objectives of the strategy and feedback will be sought from key stakeholder groups to inform the ongoing development of the strategy
- Attendees will be asked to provide feedback following education sessions
- The desired outcome of the ongoing education programme will be an increase in expertise and confidence in the clinical teams caring for patients with congenital heart disease
- Regular discussions with senior staff at hospitals in the network to discuss learning needs.

We aim to provide education, in a variety of forms to all stakeholders across the region. As the network grows the regional teams will co-design the education programme, incorporating bespoke sessions, to maximise accessibility and relevance to all those caring for patients with CHD.