

MEMBER SHOWCASE

Case study

NHS CONFEDERATION



Early intervention in psychosis pathway

Imperial College Health Partners

The challenge

The three years after symptoms of psychosis first appear are believed to be the most crucial period in successful treatment. Giving best practice, evidence-based care during this time gives the best possible chance of recovery.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has issued guidance on how best to care for patients experiencing psychosis. However, existing NHS IT systems make it difficult to collect the data which proves this is being followed, as well as support it to be implemented. It is also challenging to collect and analyse other data which is important in treatment of psychosis.



What was done

Imperial College Health Partners worked with two mental health trusts in North West London to co-design and implement an early intervention in psychosis pathway. This sets out standards for care, including how long patients should wait for an appointment.

Improved ways of collecting data have been developed and introduced. In addition, new systems allow clinicians to more easily share information across organisational boundaries. The same setup allows patients to have access to their care records and, if they wish, to share them at the point of care.

The results

The new care pathway has:

- reduced the time between a patient being referred and being assessed
- increased the number of patients accessing evidence-based early intervention in psychosis support.

Acknowledgements

A huge thank you to colleagues in the AHSN Network for working with us to help showcase this initiative.

For more information

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