



CÙRAM IS SLÀINTE NAN EILEAN SIAR

WESTERN ISLES HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE PARTNERSHIP

Meeting: Integration Joint Board
Date: 22.03.18
Item: 9.2
Purpose: For Information

NEUROLOGY SERVICES

Report by Chief Officer, Health and Social Care

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To update members on the neurology services provided by the Western Isles Health Board, following a request at the previous meeting of the Joint Board.

COMPETENCE

2. There are no legal or financial constraints to the recommendations being implemented.

SUMMARY

3. NHS Scotland estimates that some 10 million people in the UK have a neurological condition, which ranges from a common headache to highly disabling conditions. The most common physically disabling condition, multiple sclerosis (MS), has a particularly high prevalence in Scotland compared with the rest of the UK. Neurological conditions are significant contributors to emergency admissions and primary care workload.
4. Neurological disorders make up 10% of the disease burden in Scotland and unlike other disease categories most of the burden is from non-fatal disability rather than from fatal/premature death. The national vision is that every patient in Scotland with a disorder of the nervous system experiences a quality of care that gives confidence to the patient, clinician and carer.
5. Locally, our work in supporting people with neurological problems has focused on MS, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy and motor neurone disease. Supported by funding from the Scottish Government, we have sought to build capacity by appointing specialist nurses who have the skills and experience to support people with their conditions, linking to generic capacity locally like community nursing or social care, as well as specialist mainland services and consultants. The aim and purpose of the specialist nurses is to help improve the outcomes for people with these neurological conditions by working to embed improvements in line with the National Neurological Quality strategy to ensure safe, effective and person centered care.
6. The Neurological nursing team comprises of:
 - 1 WTE MS Specialist Nurse Band 6
 - 0.8 WTE Parkinson Specialist Nurse Band 6
 - 0.5 WTE Epilepsy Specialist Nurse Band 6
 - MND Specialist Nurse services are delivered through Greater Glasgow Health Board





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7. The specialist nurses are based in Stornoway but cover the whole of the Western Isles. They carry an active caseload of approximately 80 adults with epilepsy, 65 with Parkinson's disease and 92 with MS. Their role is to provide expert advice and guidance to patients, carers and professionals in the optimal management of their specific diseases and associated symptoms. They carry out holistic assessments of the physical, psychological and social needs of patients and implement joint plans of care with an emphasis on self-management where appropriate. Patient pathways have been developed involving the wider multi disciplinary team and the third sector ensuring an integrated service is delivered across community, hospital and primary care services.
8. The nurses work closely with disease-specific neurological consultants in Glasgow contributing to the vital assessment, treatment, management and review of their patients. Both the Epilepsy and Parkinson's disease nurses utilise telemedicine to conduct clinics locally with neurological consultants on the mainland. The MS nurse uses Attend Anywhere to carry out her nurse held clinics with patients across the Western Isles. The use of tele-clinics supports patients to have their specialist consultation locally thereby avoiding the need to travel to the mainland with the potential of incurring adverse effects in their condition. MS therapies have greatly advanced in recent years and the provision of intravenous therapies for MS patients is now being delivered locally negating the need for these patients to travel to the mainland.
9. In essence, the provision of these specialist nurse services along with the support of other health professionals, social care and the voluntary sector ensures that patients and carers have local access to services and information that enhance the long term management of their condition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that the IJB notes the update in respect of neurology services.

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