

Event report



Event Title:	'Count me in to stop the clots' – A Conference on Hospital Acquired Thrombosis in Wales
Date:	Tuesday 15 December 2009
Location:	Function Room D, City Hall, Cardiff CF10 3ND

1. Overview

The 1000 Lives Campaign, Lifeblood and the All-Wales Thrombosis Group held a national Conference on Hospital Acquired Thrombosis in Wales on 15 December. The event shared best practice from both England and Wales and launched the All-Wales risk assessment models. The Conference was very well attended by over 60 health professionals and key stakeholders, including the Welsh Chief Medical Officer (CMO), Dr Tony Jewell. All attendees confirmed they were committed to prioritising VTE prevention within their Hospital Boards / Trusts and looked forward to introducing the risk assessment models.



2. Objectives

- To emphasise the importance of VTE amongst Welsh health professionals.
- To demonstrate shared learning and best practice of VTE prevention.
- To launch the All-Wales risk assessment models.
- To invite attendees to the 1000 Lives' 2010 VTE Collaborative.

3. Results

- Over 60 health professionals attended, including specialist VTE nurses, pharmacists and consultants, many of whom sat on their Health Board's Thrombosis Committee. Every Health Board in Wales was represented.
- Speakers shared best clinical practice included the nursing and consultant perspective. Insight was given into managing VTE protocols on a regional level as well as demonstrating the business case for VTE prevention for individual organisations.
- The All-Wales VTE risk assessment models were launched with the endorsement of the CMO. The models were welcomed by attendees who were keen to introduce these in their organisations and feed back their experiences to the 1000 Lives Campaign to develop the models further.
- Peggy Edwards invited attendees to take part in the 1000 Lives' 2010 VTE Collaborative. Audience members agreed that urging non-VTE specialists to attend would increase knowledge within their organisation.
- Peggy Edwards informed attendees that the Medical Directors of all Health Boards would be receiving a survey to measure the current standards of VTE management.

4. Presentations

Dr Tony Jewell, Chief Medical Officer for Wales emphasised his continuing support for VTE prevention. He stated that VTE prevention is a core part of the future strategy for patient safety in NHS Wales, and he endorsed the All-Wales risk assessment models. The CMO emphasised that best practice must be learned from others and that small steps by all involved – clinicians, officials and hospital management – will be crucial in reducing the prevalence of the condition.



Dr Simon Noble, Medical Director (Wales), Lifeblood: The Thrombosis Charity provided the patient perspective on VTE. He emphasised the long-term consequences of non-fatal VTE through post-thrombotic syndrome, stating this is often forgotten but equally significant to fatal pulmonary embolism. Dr Noble emphasised that the key challenge is to relay to patients the significance of the problem and to increase understanding. He stated the media has a key role here.



Julie Branter, Associate Director of Patient Safety, South West SHA, provided an insight into how success has been delivered on a regional level by the SHA. In particular, she highlighted how audit and education, led by the SHA's VTE steering group and its strategy for peer review, had been instrumental in pushing up compliance with risk assessment procedures. She commended these measures to audience members to replicate throughout their organisations.



Emma Bond, Vascular Nurse, Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board emphasised the key contribution nurses can make in risk assessing patients, particularly the impact a specific VTE prophylaxis nurse can make across an organisation. She demonstrated how effective change can be introduced throughout a Trust or Health Board by explaining how her Health Board's VTE committee grew in size and impact, through small regular audits and education of junior doctors.



Dr Simon Noble, Chair, All Wales Thrombosis Group, launched the All-Wales risk assessment models. He explained the models have been designed in line with national guidance on risk assessment and thromboprophylaxis, including NICE recommendations to use pharmacological prophylaxis with licensed indications. Dr Noble explained the models are currently available for small tests of change, and will be adapted for each Health Board according to their local formulary, and once trials have been carried out on the models as they stand.



Alison Cole, Head of Quality Improvement, North Lancashire Teaching PCT, explained how data on the prevalence of VTE as well as the number of deaths from the condition could allow Welsh Health Boards or Trusts to benchmark themselves against similar organisations. She explained how the Commissioning for Quality Innovation and Improvement (CQUIN) payment framework had allowed NHS North Lancashire to lead the way in using commissioning to prevent VTE, and illustrated best practice to build a business case supporting VTE prevention and management that could be replicated throughout NHS Wales.



Peggy Edwards, Patient Safety Manager/Content Specialist, 1000 Lives demonstrated how the 1000 Lives Campaign would support implementation of VTE best practice through their VTE Collaborative. This will begin on 12 January 2010 and involve three sessions over the year. The sessions will examine what Health Boards are already doing to prevent and manage VTE, address what changes are required to increase implementation – including to the All-Wales risk assessment models – and examine next steps to ensure VTE prevention is embedded within NHS Wales' organisations.



5. Next Steps

- The All-Wales Thrombosis Group will send a copy of the All-Wales risk assessment models with a briefing on VTE prevention to all Welsh Health Boards' Medical Directors.
- The 1000 Lives Campaign will launch its collaborative on 12 January.
- The All-Wales Thrombosis Group will adapt the risk assessment models according to Health Board's local formularies.
- The All-Wales Thrombosis Group will present a report on VTE prevention in Wales, based on survey results, in the Welsh Assembly.