



## GP Newsletter - North Central

### What's happening in your area?

#### 'Red Bag Scheme' for Care Homes



The red bag scheme can now be found in most care homes within North Central Sector areas. This scheme has been widely advertised internally to ensure staff are aware of the processes involved and the part we play in this process. In essence, the scheme ensures that a resident or patient who is conveyed to hospital from their care home has all their personal effects, notes and medications placed inside the 'Red Bag'.

This bag is a medium sized zip bag which the care home staff prepare before the LAS arrive. The bag is taken with the patient to hospital and handed over to the receiving team. Once the patient is placed on the ward, the nursing team will have access to the red bag and all the effects within it. This scheme has demonstrated an increase in patient experience while an in-patient, and initial reports are indicating a reduced length of stay in some cases.

Once discharged, the red bag is packed with updated medical records, medications and personal effects and transported back to the patient's residence. At this point, the LAS handover the bag to the care home team.

The LAS are the main transport link to this chain and they play a key role in ensuring the bag is actually used and handed over at both ends of the patient's journey.

## **Clinical News**

### **Macmillan End of Life Care Team**



Since August 2018 Macmillan have been funding a two year programme to improve the palliative and end of life care service provided by the London Ambulance Service. The team consists of a Nurse consultant, Paramedic leads and an evaluation lead. The aim of the programme is to:

- Enhance staff knowledge, confidence and wellbeing
- Enhance patient and family/carer experience
- Reduce inappropriate resuscitation attempts
- Reduce inappropriate hospital conveyance
- Enhance the quality of care provision

From July the team will be implementing an End of Life Care Coordinator network at each ambulance station group that will focus on improving the care provision at a local level. Please get in touch if you would like to link with your local coordinator.

**Contact:** [EOLC@Londonambulance.nhs.uk](mailto:EOLC@Londonambulance.nhs.uk)

## **Coordinate My Care (CMC)**



CMC is now the only way the London Ambulance Service can access a patient's care plan. CMC is flagged on our system using the patients address. If a 999 call is made the ambulance clinicians attending are notified that the plan is available to view. CMC is suitable for any patient you feel would benefit from their care plan being communicated to London Ambulance Service and 111 clinicians.

CMC is accessible to operational staff via an App on trust issued iPads. Ambulance crews are able to view a patient's care plan on scene, which can provide valuable information to guide clinical decision making. CMC is vital for ambulance clinicians as it provides key information about a patient that they will often have no pre-existing knowledge about. Ambulance clinicians can view your records of treatment escalation plans, patient's wishes and important decisions that have been made, such as DNACPR status, using CMC. This information can prevent inappropriate emergency department admissions and enables patients to be supported according to their needs and wishes.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 the London Ambulance Service have moved to holding all key clinical information about patients on CMC records. Patient Specific Protocols (PSP) are no longer accepted by the LAS. We are currently checking all existing PSPs, and that process will be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019. GP's will be informed if we discover a patient who requires a PSP to be migrated to a CMC plan.

For additional CMC training click [here](#).

## **London Ambulance Service News**

### **Behind the Sirens podcast**



They're on the roads 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, responding to over 9 million Londoners, but what really goes on behind the sirens?

From major incidents to prank callers, the London Ambulance Service's new podcast gives listeners a peak into the day to day lives of staff in one of the world's busiest ambulance services.

Behind the Sirens is the perfect buddy for your commute. Join our host, Andrew, as he delves into what happens behind the sirens at London Ambulance Service. He meets with our mental health team, chats with some of our paramedics and delves into what life is like in our 999 control room.

You can subscribe on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) and [Google Podcasts](#).

**Consultant Midwife receives national midwifery honour**



Amanda Mansfield, the Service's Consultant Midwife has received a national award from the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) for her contribution to midwifery.

Amanda received the honour at a ceremony at the Royal college of Midwives Education Conference in Bath and is the first midwife working in pre-hospital care to receive the fellowship.

Commenting on receiving the award, Amanda said: "I feel so honoured to be the first pre-hospital midwife to be recognised with a RCM fellowship."

"For many women, pregnancy and birth are normal life events, however occasionally emergencies do occur and they need to be managed quickly to ensure the safety of both mother and baby. It has been a great privilege to work on developing this emergency care and also help improve the support and training for emergency service staff in this area."

Amanda leads a team of midwives at the Service who have developed and delivered pioneering educational resources for emergency services staff - from those working in the control room to patient facing clinicians. This improved training is helping to make sure mums and babies receive the best care for their needs.

Amanda also led on the development and implementation of a Pan London pre-hospital Maternity Assessment and Screening tool, enabling clinicians to recognise when women who become unwell during pregnancy require emergency assistance.

Amanda has been a midwife for over 30 years. Before her current role she worked as a strategic midwifery and maternity leader at the Royal Free Hospital in London and at Stoke Mandeville, Wycombe and Wexham Park Hospitals.

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