

Advanced community gynaecology – using point of care diagnostics to deliver prudent local healthcare in Ceredigion and Hywel Dda

Project Background:

COVID recovery in gynaecology has received much focus but remains inefficient, with multiple appointments needed to treat common gynaecological complaints.

Within Ceredigion, there was a need to develop community services to address this through developing a new one stop services, avoiding the need for excess travel and multiple appointments.

This approach greatly improves the patient experience and exemplifies prudent healthcare in action.

Project Aims/Objectives:

- Overarching Aim: To provide access to essential health care services for women in Hywel Dda, particularly focusing on menopausal health in a rural setting, providing efficient prudent healthcare.
- Objective 1:** To develop a new clinic structure, contributing to a more prudent model of healthcare delivery
 - Objective 2:** Provide access to improved community-based care services for patients in Ceredigion/ Hywel Dda
 - Objective 3:** To develop a new integrated menopause service specifically assessing irregular bleeding on HRT
 - Objective 4:** To reduce the need for in hospital treatment and inpatient operating, providing care closer to home
 - Objective 5:** To look at ways of integrating new technological advancements into everyday practice

Project Outcome(s):

- The key outcomes of the project were:
- The establishment of a novel irregular bleed clinic for patients on HRT only, creating a streamlined assessment and clinic structure
 - Successful trial of a paperless free system of notes recording
 - The significant resource release therefore developing increased capacity for cancer pathway patients

Project Impact:

- A streamlined service reducing multiple appointments and unnecessary clinical time
- Released over £73,000 / year of resources
- Created an additional 276 cancer pathway diagnostic appointments, as a result
- Reduced the burden on diagnostic radiology

Project Approach:

- The central aim of the project was to deliver services from centrally within the health board so that patients could be seen from across the geographical spread of Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, and Carmarthenshire
- Logically this was the easiest way to deliver specialist services in an equitable format

Key Conclusions:

- Successfully developed and implemented a novel clinic for a specific problem
- Demonstrated a clear resource release (see table)
- Improved on the multiple follow ups that previously were generated from the old system
- Set a precedent that paper free working is easily possible and implemented
- Reduced the socio-economic burden of the patient

Next Steps:

For strategic development, the project has been divided into distinct phases

Phase 1: Design and implementation

Phase 2: Initial data collection

Phase 3: Review and recommendations on service success

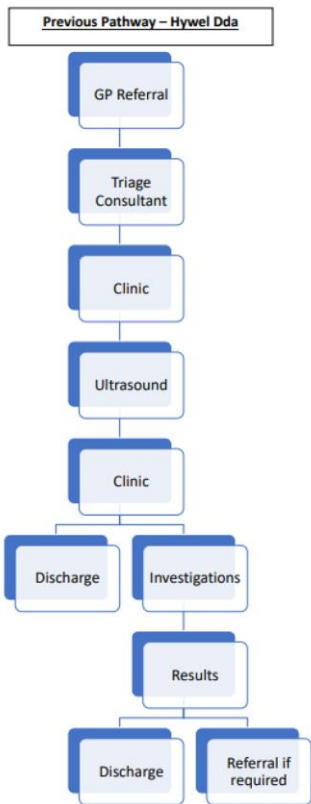
Phase 4: Patient satisfaction survey and response collection

Having completed steps 1-3, the next 12 months will follow up with step 4.

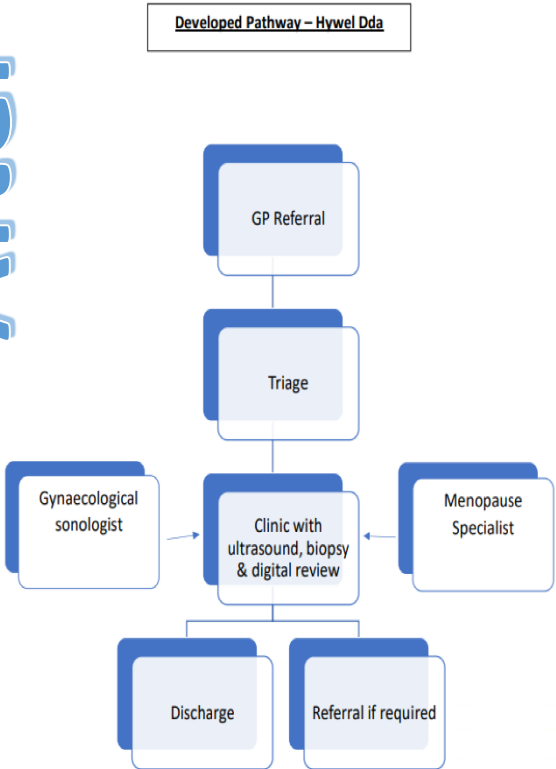
There will also be further efforts to develop implementation at secondary sites within the health board and development of new clinical streams following this model e.g. for fertility

Resource	Previous pathway	Developed pathway
Consultant appointment - new	£262	£262
Consultant appointment - follow up	£143	
Ultrasound scan	£125	
Total	£530	£262
Resource released per patient		£268
Resource released per year		£73,968

Before



After



- The table above demonstrates the calculation of key resource release from the project, created by the new model, saving on consultant appointment and one ultrasound clinic
- The flow diagram above highlights the new clinic structure that has been streamlined to incorporate three specialist skills in one setting