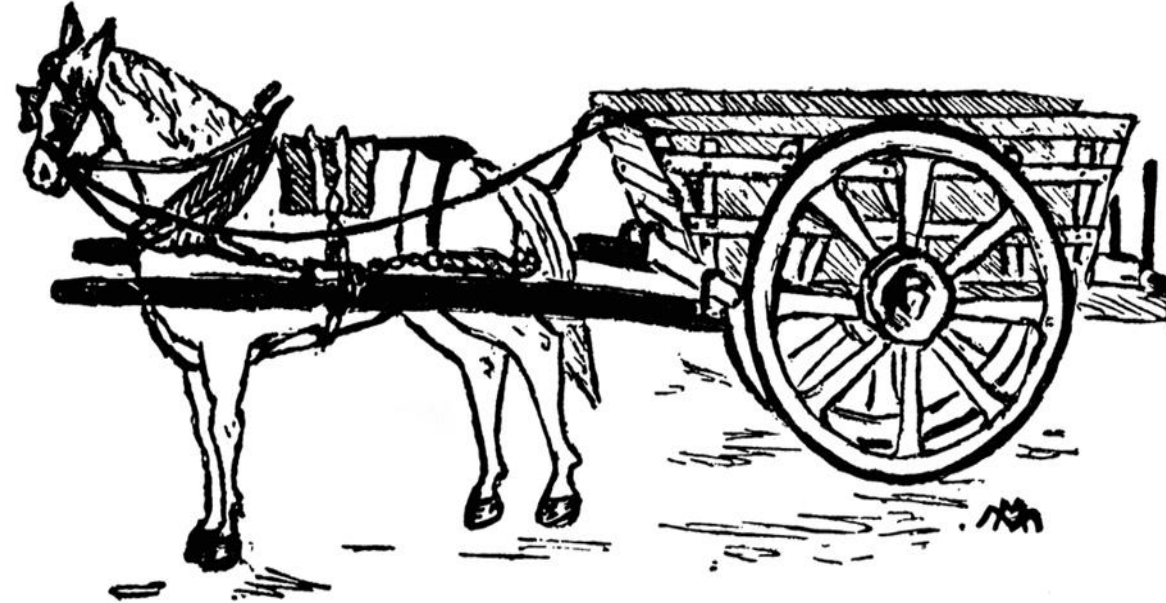


INTER-HOSPITAL TRANSFERS

Dr Henry Okoi (Project in conjunction with Public Health England)



Themes from literature review: providers

- Checklists and standardised forms.
- Protocols & pathways
- Communication
- Co-ordination between hospitals
- Documentation
- Medical stabilisation of patient for transport
- Transfer planning
- Commissioning arrangements
- Capacity for all in system
- Training & System testing

Themes from literature review: service users

- Anxiety, fear and uncertainty
- Feeling lack of control
- Feeling unwelcomed by receiving hospital
- Communication with patient
- Social impact
- Communication: between referring/receiving hospitals/ general practice

Themes from study

1. Knowledge/Understanding of process, and its transfer
2. Capacity
3. Communication during the process
4. Specific issues

Pathways reviewed

- Acute Thoracic Aortic Dissection
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA)
- Acute coronary syndrome (ACS) (N-STEMI) (urgent)

Project Aim

- Impact of patient transfers on clinical effectiveness
- Explore any key concerns (if any) regarding patient safety arising from current practise of inter-hospital transfers happening within the East of England?

Specific Objectives

1. To review literature on barriers and facilitators of efficient and effective inter-hospital transfers
2. To understand key issues and concerns/potential risks, including barriers and facilitators of efficient transfers from stakeholders, including patients, in the region
3. To quantify the scale of inter-hospital transfers relating to the 3 cardiac pathways outlined above in east of England
4. To identify key structures (people and their needs) and processes in referral and receiving hospitals in inter-hospital transfers in the 3 pathways in East of England
5. To determine if local practises meet recommended standards/good practice

Knowledge/understanding of processes, and its transfer

- Checklists and protocols
- Education and learning & Training.
- Other mechanisms: example cardiac network

Capacity

- Lack of capacity across the system – which leads to the need for prioritisation where there was no need previously
- Prioritisation of resources
- Commissioning agreements
- Better use of incentives

Communication during the process

- Who communicates what to whom
- What is required when,
- checklists and protocols
- Defined pathways will help communication and prioritisation

Solutions/Recommendations

- NHS England facilitating a IHT concordat
- Better balance between system priorities and organisational priorities.
- Facilitating collaboration across organisations
 - a) Cardiac network – for these pathways?
 - b) A general IHT forum vs specific specialty area/forum
 - c) Role of STP?