

## **JOINT WORKING EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Project Title: South West (Peninsula) Multiple Sclerosis Regional MDT Project**

#### **Project description:**

This project will provide an opportunity to build on existing services within the region to develop a service model that provides a fit for 21st Century service providing equitable care for MS patients within the SW Peninsula region. The outputs of this project are scalable; the service design process and/or model could be used as an example of best practice with wider MS healthcare communities across the UK.

Findings/Outcomes could be adapted to support service redesign to improve outcomes and value based healthcare across care systems. An evolution towards better collaboration and integration that improves patient outcomes.

#### **Organisations involved:**

Roche Products Ltd, North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust, Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust, South West Academic Health Science Network and University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust.

#### **Project approach:**

This project will assist in the development and implementation of a Regional MDT (rMDT). This includes the operational development, pilot and sustainable transition to NHS/AHSN self management.

This has been conducted via Agile sprint methodology with expertise from Health Care professionals and support colleagues from the MS community to ensure a patient centred solution has been developed.

Relevant clinical and patient outcome measures will be iterated and captured as part of the ongoing rMDT evolution.

#### **Expected outcomes.**

#### **Benefits to Patients:**

The objective of the Regional MDT network model for MS across the South West is to increase consistency and quality of services to deliver improved patient outcomes at all centres, improving patient quality of life and improved MS healthcare experience. At an individual level it will allow certain complex cases to benefit from specialist MS consultants and Neuro-radiology review which may not be available at their local centre. This increases the accuracy of clinical management decisions. This will be assessed via both clinical measures and as part of MS patient engagement.

The rMDT will help sustain the delivery of Specialist MS services at local Hospital Trusts reducing the need for patients to commute to specialist Neurology / MS regional centres to access specific aspects of care.

### **Benefit to NHS:**

The regional MDT will provide a regional decision making framework for patients with MS. Benefits will be seen through improvement in consistent decision making in the Region, knowledge exchange across the clinical community and promotes the development of better communication and collaboration across the 5 acute Trusts within the MS network. The NHS will also benefit from accuracy of decision making in the cases reviewed.

Data and metrics to capture the true cost of chronic conditions are not widely agreed. As this project develops recommendations on meaningful datasets that could be collated will be developed for MS to enable appropriate assessment of these conditions, both in terms of outcomes and finances as part of a more holistic Value Based Healthcare approach to the benefit of patients with Multiple Sclerosis.

### **Benefits to Roche:**

Provide operational system level insights and supporting work in understanding how MS clinical services are evolved to improve patient health outcomes whilst addressing any backlogs as a result of Covid19.

These insights will provide an improved benchmark standard of care and will help inform conversations with NHS and wider MS community regarding the most appropriate and efficient care for patients with long term chronic disease.

### **Resource Breakdown**

Roche Products Ltd contribution to the Joint working project is £39,400 made up of financial support towards the employment Regional MS MDT CoOrdinator, support towards specialist NeuroRadiology MDT input and MS Patient / Focus Advisory Group engagement.

The estimated NHS prorated staff contribution to the project, coordinated through the South West AHSN, is approximately £39,619.

### **Outcome of the Project**

Due to COVID 19 and operational delays at trusts in the South West the Collaborative Working project was completed in June 2023. The MSrMDT initially ran for four months in 2021 and has been running monthly since September 2022 to present, June 2023 (with the exception of December 2022), with an average attendance of 12 members. Sixty-one cases have been discussed at the 13 MSrMDT meetings. Discussions usually focused on diagnosis or treatment:

- 1) 27 cases were brought to discuss diagnosis, 14 (52%) cases had a change in diagnosis as a result,
- 2) 43 cases were brought to discuss treatment, 25 (58%) cases had a change in treatment as a result,
- 3) 49 cases discussed a care plan, and for all of the cases the presenting clinician indicated that they would follow the care plan agreed in the meeting.

The key goals achieved were:

- 4) establishment of a Peninsula Multiple Sclerosis Regional MDT which enabled specialist neuroradiology diagnosis, assessment and knowledge exchange between specialist MS Health Care professionals / teams from Trusts across the region.

- 5) this resulted in accuracy of diagnosis either resulting in confirmation or change for a number of patients that were discussed at rMDT.
- 6) benefitted patients (and carers) in being treated at local trusts rather than needing to travel to University Hospitals Plymouth.
- 7) supported the employment of a Regional MS MDT CoOrdinator that ensures ongoing management support and consistency of the RMDT.
- 8) capture and sharing of meaningful MS clinical data and outcomes across MS teams in the region.

An evaluation was conducted by the AHSN (HIN) Evaluation team and a report titled '**An Evaluation of the South West Multiple Sclerosis Regional Multi-Disciplinary Team Meeting**' an excerpt from the Conclusion is below:

This evaluation has demonstrated the positive impact that the MSrMDT model is having on its members' confidence, knowledge, and satisfaction. Evidence from the participants, as well as cases reviewed indicate that the MSrMDT is valuable, feasible, and practical for those participating. The positive workforce outcomes, in addition to expert clinical opinions, indicate that the model can further benefit patients and the system. The MSrMDT has the potential to help address the workforce challenges in neurological services and enable the workforce to have the skills and support to manage complex cases locally with a consistent standard of care, which is critical for adapting to the rapid changes in the MS treatment and evidence landscape.

This document has been produced by Roche Products Ltd.

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