

**Collaborative Working Project between The Northern Alliance NHS
Foundation Trust and AbbVie Ltd**
Executive Summary

This is an executive summary outlining the collaborative working (CW) between The Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust and AbbVie Ltd.

Project CATALYST: aCtivATing optimAL patient journeYS to improve patient care aims to support optimisation of the patient journey and patient outcomes in dermatology services through:

- ensuring patients get seen by the right clinician at the right time in the right place,
- the development of specialist services within dermatology,
- enabling the use of advanced practice skilled practitioners in the patient journey.

This project is driven by the GIRFT recommendations for dermatology services, namely recommendation 3 (“Optimise the training and function of the whole dermatology multidisciplinary team to deliver better care across settings and reduce locum costs. Develop a clinic structure to support this”) and also 3f (“Explore the potential for hospital pharmacists to help with the management of patients on systemic medications, including biologics.”)⁽¹⁾

The Collaborative Working Project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To optimise the patient journey to raise the standards of patient care in dermatology.
- To gather quantitative and qualitative information to be used to identify areas of opportunity and best practice which can be utilised to validate/improve services for both patients and healthcare professionals.
- To facilitate a reduction in routine outpatient appointments, in line with the NHS Long Term Plan.
- Support NHS Services post Covid 19 Pandemic recovery and to facilitate patient-initiated follow-up (PIFU).

In undertaking this work, the project team would aim to impact on the following outcomes:

- To demonstrate the overall benefit to the dermatology service of the provision of a specialist advanced therapies pharmacist.
- To determine the optimal use of the specialist pharmacist within the patient's journey, through shaping the multi-disciplinary team that includes this new role for the dermatology service.
- To support wider regional changes to secondary care services through specialist pharmacist position.
- To quantify the magnitude of the benefit to the service through assessing changes to service capacity and patient experience.

The project will be led by the NHS project Lead Hamish Hunter and AbbVie Project Lead Liesbet Van Rossen. The project effective date is 24th January 2024 and approximate date for completion would be January 2026.

The intended benefits of the CW project are listed below:

The Patient

- Improved patient access to specialist services, as indicated by reduced waiting times for new and routine appointments
- Standardised pathways
- Enhanced uptake of PIFU, aligned with NHS Long term Plan
- Enhanced patient satisfaction and empowering patients to access specialist services when needed
- Medicine optimisation through improved adherence to treatment

Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust:

- Improved service capacity by reducing time to diagnosis and treatment
- Implementation of agreed pathways allowing standardisation of assessment and monitoring
- Empowerment of patients to be active partners in their care, as measured through increased PIFU
- A reduction in routine outpatient appointments
- Enhanced co-ordination of patient care and multidisciplinary teamwork
- Enhanced and streamlined specialist service provision
- Opportunity for audit, research, and quality improvement projects
- Educational needs of MDT identified and addressed
- Initiation or optimisation of specialist care/clinics where necessary
- Best practice sharing across the NHS

AbbVie:

- Demonstrated partner of choice for opportunities to improve standards of care in Dermatology.
- Support AbbVie's position as a leader within the immunology landscape
- Gain valuable insights and develop further understanding of the NHS challenges to inform further initiatives

Funding

- Funding for meeting space, resulting meeting materials and £64,054 +VAT for 1 year of a band 8A Clinical Pharmacist will be provided by AbbVie.

References

1. Dermatology: Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) Programme National Specialty Report Aug 2021.

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