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southseftonccg.foi@nhs.net

NHS South Sefton CCG

Merton House
Stanley Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 3DL

Tel: 0151 247 7000

Email: southseftonccg.foi@nhs.net

Re: Freedom of Information Request

Please find below the response to your recent Freedom of Information request regarding EPaCCS services within NHS South Sefton CCG.

Request/[Response](#):

Following the "End of Life Care Strategy" published by the Department of Health in 2008 (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/136431/End_of_life_strategy.pdf) it was expected for all then PCT, now CCGs, to implement better ways of coordination of care for terminally ill patients so "a good death" could be achieved. Many forms of Electronic Palliative Care Coordination (EPaCCS) resulted. The most extended one is perhaps "coordinate my care"

My questions are:

In your CCG cluster, is there an EPaCCS in place? For how long?

[Yes. This has been in place for over 18 months.](#)

Can you describe how does it work?

[EPaCCS is a systematic approach enabling the recording and sharing of people's care preferences and key details about their care at the end of life. In this region we have adopted the EPaCCS data set and added a few local codes so as to ensure all the relevant key information is recorded in the format agreed nationally. This information is then shared via Sharing Agreements within the GP clinical system \(EMIS\).](#)

What is the coverage -among primary care, secondary care, hospices and community services-?

- [Primary Care – All GPs have access to the same template via their clinical system \(EMIS\) that enables them to record and share EPaCCS information. This information is then readily accessible to community services \(who also use the same clinical system\) via the data](#)

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sharing agreements in place. Plans are currently underway to ensure community services such as

Palliative Care and Community Matrons are recording the same information using the same agreed coding.

- Secondary Care/Hospices – A programme of work is currently underway to provide access to the GP/Community clinical system, that will enable these locations to access EPaCCS patient information via a specific EPaCCS sharing agreement.

and in particular have interoperability issues (different organisations use distinct software) been addressed? and how?

This is being addressed in two phases. The first phase has been to provide access to the information via access to one clinical system (EMIS) as described above. The second phase involves the interoperability work ongoing between the CCGs and Informatics Merseyside under the iLinks Sharing Framework. This framework is enabling service providers who use different systems to share information regardless of the system used. The EPaCCS national data set ensures that all information shared, regardless of the system, will flow smoothly through use of common codes.