

Developing a regional Dental Services Pathway for inherited bleeding disorders in North London, UK.

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Introduction and Objectives: The optimal management of dental disorders in patients with inherited bleeding disorder (IBD) requires close communication between dentists and haemophilia treaters. In particular, facilitating the mutual understanding of the potential risks of both the IBD and the dental procedure should enable a more consistent approach to patient care. The North London Adult Haemophilia Network (NLAHN) was established in 2009 to support clinicians, commissioners and other health professionals to meet the clinical needs of adults living with IBD. The NLAHN comprises 2 Haemophilia Comprehensive Care Centres (The Royal Free Hospital, The Royal London Hospital) and 1 Haemophilia Treatment Centre (Imperial).

Materials and Methods: The NLAHN dental pathway was finalized in September 2014. The service is co-ordinated from The Royal London (RL) Dental Hospital, led by a restorative dental consultant with longstanding experience in the management of patient with IBD of all severities. She is supported by a dental/oral surgery team. The Haemophilia MDT CNS (Clinical Nurse Specialist) team encourage patients to seek routine dental hygiene care with general dental practitioners (GDP), facilitated by a co-authored “dental liaison” letter, with clear guidance about referral to the RL Dental Hospital team for elective procedures. There is an emergency pathway for acute symptom assessment and intervention. Pathway-specific process mapping and patient literature was developed to support this initiative.

- **Results/conclusions:** NLAHN Haemophilia centres, or GDPs, are now able to refer directly to the lead clinician at the RL Dental Hospital via a fast-tracked, secure pathway. The initial dental assessment generates a dental treatment plan, communicated securely back to the patient’s haemophilia centre requesting a haemostasis treatment plan. The Royal London Haemophilia team oversee implementation of the haemostasis treatment (if needed) and 24 hours post procedure surveillance is a follow up t/c by CNS. Patients then return to their normal haemophilia centre for on-going care.
- This in-turn provides: access to a large dental facility with established IBD expertise to provide both elective and emergency dental care facilitating routine dental hygiene surveillance in the patients’ local communities. We have demonstrated the successful implementation of a network approach to providing expert dental care for patients with IBD across a large City

Current referrals received = 42 cancellations = 2 DNA = 2

Inhibitor patients = 1

Urgent pain referrals = 11

