

# Cardiac Pathways Improvement Programme (CPIP) Update

Issue 1: - November 2021

 [#improvinghearthealth](https://twitter.com/#improvinghearthealth)

## Welcome

Welcome to the first CPIP update. It has been over 8 years since funding was withdrawn from cardiovascular networks and it has taken a lot of effort from you all to get to where we are today with the resurgence of funded cardiac networks. Both my predecessor Huon Gray and I, have always believed that a network-based approach to deliver care to people with heart disease was the right model and the establishment of a whole pathway approach really embodies this.

The environment for healthcare is changing – the previous system of competition between trusts and challenges of communication at the primary-acute interface should be tackled by provider collaboration and integrated care. By working together as a network within this new environment, and collaborating to improve heart health and care outcomes, I believe we can achieve much more than the previous system. We can deliver a better service working together and there are other advantages such as saving on purchasing and better and more balanced staffing models. The benefits will be reaped by our patients who will get better health care; this approach will also streamline the management of these patients and help to reduce health inequalities, which will support delivery of the Long-Term Plan ambition to reduce cardiovascular mortality.

The Cardiac Pathways Improvement Programme is a partnership between networks, their participant providers, ICSs and PCNs, and the national team. The contribution and participation of all partners is vital, and the national team will act to enable change through our national support offer, and Collaboratives.

Cardiovascular disease is still one of the biggest causes of death in England and working together we can make a major impact on this.

**Professor Nick Linker,**  
**National Clinical Director for Heart Disease, NHS England and NHS Improvement**



## Key updates this month

### CPIP Quarterly Review Meetings

The national team has been working with a small number of network representatives developing the process for CPIP quarterly review meetings (QRMs). The initial meetings, which will take place over the next two months, will build a shared view of the network's journey so far and develop a shared view of strengths and support needs.

The meetings will inform ongoing development of learning collaboratives, products/case studies and additional national support offers.

### FutureNHS Superusers

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October training for nominated Superusers took place. The meeting, which included a training session, helped to familiarise those who will have a key role in supporting your networks to effectively access, communicate and share experience and learning using the CPIP FutureNHS platform.

With contributions from each network, we aim to develop a central resource which enables networks to access and share their approach, documents/protocols, and examples of local practice/experience.

To find out who your nominated Superuser is contact your network programme manager. If you haven't put forward your network Superuser, please email [england.cpip@nhs.net](mailto:england.cpip@nhs.net)

### Representatives for Learning Collaboratives

We contacted attendees after the launch meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, to ask for representatives for two key groups we agreed to establish. The first is focused on co-design of CPIP learning collaboratives, and is key to developing the approach, content and format for learning that will support your networks most effectively. The second, is a peer-to-peer group where those leading and establishing cardiac networks come together to share experiences, challenges, and solutions.

We are planning to hold the first of both above meetings at the end of November, please send the details of your network representatives to [england.cpip@nhs.net](mailto:england.cpip@nhs.net)

## What's New...

### New Cardiac Clinical Pathway: Prevention

Development of high-level clinical pathways continues as a focus for the national team. Alongside the existing seven cardiac pathways which feature on the FutureNHS platform a further pathway for Prevention will be released later this month. Please look here: [Clinical Pathways](#).

## The Circuit

Access to a defibrillator, along with initial recognition of symptoms, early CPR and post resuscitation care can mean the difference between life and death for a person who is going into cardiac arrest.

The Circuit – is a BHF project for a national defibrillator network, which connects defibrillators to NHS ambulance services across the UK so that in those crucial moments after a cardiac arrest, they can be accessed quickly to help save lives.

“The NHS is aiming to triple the out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival rate and properly registering the details of defibrillators is vital so ambulance services can quickly locate and deploy them when needed”

**Professor Stephen Powis,**  
**National Medical Director for NHS England and NHS Improvement**

Find out more about how your system can register defibrillators through [The Circuit](#)

## Patient and public involvement in cardiovascular disease

A national training programme is being implemented to provide a pool of trained PPV representatives to help them to understand the NHS landscape, the CVDR programme's priorities and objectives, and to empower them to speak up at national and network forums/meetings. This programme of work will engage a mix of paid PPV advisors and patient and public networks, to co-design policy, and support accountability for delivery.

The training programme will be offered in preparation for the role of PPV Partner, training will be delivered through the NHSE Participation team and the Peer Leadership Academy. To find out more about how this role can support cardiac network development please contact your regional PPV lead.

## National Workstream Update - Workforce

### Digital Passporting

During the Covid 19 pandemic digital passporting was set up to enable employees to work seamlessly across different employers. This process is still in place in order to support the elective recovery work, including in cardiac services.

Any NHS employee can be issued with a passport by their employer and any NHS organisation can sign up to be registered as a Digital Staff Passport (DSP) employer. All employee terms and conditions and payroll are maintained by the host employer.

Having organisations within your network signed up for this DSP takes out the bureaucracy of staff movement and eliminates the need for honorary contracts etc.

The process will enable staff to work across cardiac networks e.g., an echocardiographer can use their unique skillset to work at various sites across the network on different days, or support network wide waiting list initiatives. For more information and who to contact to find out more, please check out the website [COVID-19 Digital Staff Passport](#) for live data, user guides and videos.

## Echocardiography Triage Guidelines

Please ensure that all your providers are using the British Society of Echocardiography (BSE) triage guidelines for patients to support management of waiting lists.

Transthoracic echocardiography is an essential test in the evaluation of patients with suspected structural and functional cardiac conditions. When used appropriately, it facilitates rapid diagnosis and timely intervention for patients. The BSE have previously issued detailed guidance, aimed at hospital and specialist referrers, regarding the indications for, and optimal timing of, outpatient, inpatient, and critical care transthoracic echocardiography. (British Society of Echocardiography 2021)

There are guidelines available for both primary and secondary/acute settings - These guidelines are available in poster format and can be downloaded and printed:

For primary care settings - [Primary care triaging poster \(bsecho.org\)](https://www.bsecho.org/primary-care-triaging-poster)

For acute/secondary care settings - [Triaging poster set \(bsecho.org\)](https://www.bsecho.org/triaging-poster-set)

## Digital innovation: Cardiology and cardiac surgery elective care funding

In late August, NHSX asked networks to take part in the Expression of Interest exercise to identify networks/systems where funding could be allocated to support local systems to adopt digital solutions to support elective recovery in Cardiology and Cardiac services, focusing on remote monitoring of deterioration.

This process received an enthusiastic response, within a tight timeline. The responses were reviewed jointly between the NHSX team and national CPIP team.

Those that were successful will be able to provide learning on advances that have potential for rapid, wide roll-out across the NHS. We will keep you informed of any further opportunities of this kind. Please find details of successful applications here: [NHSX Adoption Fund](#).

## Further information

Don't forget if you have questions or need insights from other networks you can use the FutureNHS Discussion forum to ask colleagues questions, these messages are accessible to the wider CPIP community of over 250 colleagues. [FutureNHS Discussion Forum](#)