

Addressing ethnic inequalities in aortic stenosis

Aortic stenosis is one of the most common and serious valve disease problems. As it accrues mortality of 4% per month, it is vital to have a seamless pathway, ensuring rapid detection, diagnosis, and treatment. Historically these have been planned, paid, and provided in discrete settings (community, primary, second, tertiary care; core / ICB and specialised commissioning) The South London pilot is demonstrating how we can integrate services and organisations for better patient care – for all patients. .



AS is **detected** in primary care by GPs listening to the heart, but since Covid there have been fewer face to face appointments and we have seen a reduction in referrals.



AS is **diagnosed** using echo, but as a result of Covid, many patients (19-45%) wait more than 6 weeks.



AS **treatment** rates vary significantly between boroughs, with BAME patients starkly underrepresented. The reasons for this have yet to be fully elucidated, but work is being carried out to understand cultural preferences and behaviours so that health teams across settings can better provide for these communities.

Ongoing **innovation** and research is necessary to keep services fit for purpose in future.

Education Diagnosis in the community Patient centred care Understanding barriers Improved communication Research

Detection in the community – A collaborative public engagement event between the South London Cardiac ODN, South East London ICS, Healthwatch, and the national charity, Heart Valve Voice, brought health checks to people in Peckham.

People boarded the *Your Heart Matters* bus where clinical teams checked their hearts for abnormalities requiring follow up. People were also offered flu and Covid vaccines, plus a blood pressure check (with ambulatory monitoring equipment as needed).

Results: 322 hearts checked. 50+ positive findings. 2 people sent to A&E.



Diagnosis in the community – Working across ICB primary care leads, the ODN, and pilot primary care networks, we are delivering echo clinics in the community, linked with ICB community diagnostic hubs.

Results: Echo equipment and staffing procured. Anticipated go live Jan 2023.



Pathway improvements - South London is streamlining the tertiary pathway, with a single point of entry and joint review by surgeons and cardiologists. tertiary setting.

Results: Learnings are being shared pan London via the structural heart working group.

Understanding our populations – The Cardiac ODN is working with Mabadiliko, a third sector expert in inclusivity and equity, to understand behaviours and attitudes that impact care within the Black African and Caribbean communities.

Results: Linking this work to ICB activities, the insight and report will provide the basis to create resources for the health system to better serve this underserved population, as well as influencing the national healthcare inequalities improvement programme.

Working with King's College London primary care research team, an **academic framework for data collection** has been developed in order to build understanding of prevalence across different ethnicity populations.

