

## KIDNEY HEALTH FOR ALL

PREPARING FOR THE UNEXPECTED, SUPPORTING THE VULNERABLE!



See page 9

#worldkidneyday #kidneyhealthforall  
[www.worldkidneyday.org](http://www.worldkidneyday.org)

World Kidney Day is a joint ISN IFKF-WKA Initiative

### South London Pathfinder programme

The South London Pathfinder programme provides us the pioneering opportunity to test the NHS England products and processes of delegation ahead of national rollout in 2024/25.

The Pathfinder Programme Board met for the first time on 22 February, and agreed the scope, governance, and terms of reference. Workstream leads (business intelligence, contracting, and finance) presented draft project plans, deliverables, and timescales, noting areas of interface and alignment. Although quality management is not in scope for the pathfinder, parallel work is ongoing in this transition year to mainstream it into ICBs. The next board meeting will focus on the programme's plan and milestones, risk management, and communications and engagement.

An overview of the pathfinder programme is available which highlights its objectives, outputs, and timelines. If you would like for the team to further share with you and your teams, please let us know.

As a reminder, the Pathfinder is related, yet separate to the core work of the South London Office of Specialised Services (SLOSS): clinical pilots testing integration, coordination of specialised networks and acute provider collaboratives, and transformation plans for 2023/24.

## INSIDE

### NHSE update

- Regional priorities
- Finance update
- Specialised services webinars

### South London programme

- Systems Analytics and Finance Group (SAFG)
- Task and Finish Group
- Year 2 transformation pilots

### Transformation

#### Specialised pilot updates

- Cardiac
- Blood borne viruses
- Neurology
- *Focus on:* Renal and World Kidney Day (9 March)

# NHS England updates

## NHSE regional specialised priorities

The NHS England regional specialised commissioning team has recommended three **priority pathways for London ICSs to address in 2023/24: renal, sickle cell, and paediatric critical care.**

It is envisaged that ICSs have flexibility in the manner elected to progress these.

## NHSE regional specialised finance

Following publication of the [2023/24 priorities and operational planning guidance](#), NHS England has shared with finance colleagues the proposed approach for establishing provider envelopes for planning specialised services in the coming year.

The approach has been designed to safely transition from the 2023/24 finance and contracting regime and to support greater ICB integration of services that will be delegated from April 2024.

NHSE also shared SEL and SWL provider information, summary patient flows, and a technical guidance / FAQs document with members of the Systems Analytics and Finance Group (SAFG).

## NHSE specialised services webinars

NHS England continues to host a suite of webinars for ICB and provider staff working in specialised services.

Details and recordings of past sessions are available on the Specialised Services Future Commissioning workspace within FutureNHS collaboration platform (login required).

[7 March webinar \(16:00-16:45\) – \*\*What BI and analytics tools are available for specialised services?\*\*](#)



### Past sessions

- [Webinar 1](#): Introduction to specialised commissioning
- [Webinar 2](#): Joint working arrangements and the Joint Working Agreement
- [Webinar 3](#): National clinical leadership and policy formation in specialised
- [Webinar 4](#): Service specifications and the manual

# South London programme updates

## SAFG: Linking finance, BI, and analytics

The February meeting of the Systems Analytics and Finance Group (SAFG) covered the new approach to contracting, development of the pathfinder, data base access and available information, and an update from the NHSE specialised commissioning finance team.

It was noted that there are proposals to delegate the funding for high cost drugs to ICBs from April 2024.

South London ICSs (commissioner and providers) will want to be actively engaged as this develops, given significant risks it presents to financial stability and continuing innovation.

NHSE is leading a workstream on national contracting models for 2024/25. SAFG members will be involved to provide operational expertise, as well as linking in colleagues from specific services as required.

Task and Finish (TF) group members will review the NHSE London specialised figures for providers, feeding back insight to SAFG.

## Task and Finish Group

The role of the Task and Finish group is to support the SAFG, ensuring that providers and ICBs have confidence in, and reach a common understanding of, the data that will be used for ICB specialised allocation setting in 23/24. The group will also identify and resolve issues regarding access to data, data quality, and identification rules.

## Year 2: Transformation pilot plans

Our transformation pilots were researched and selected due to their ability to demonstrate integration and impact against the triple aim: improving population health, service quality and value.

The pilots initially selected included:

- Addressing inequalities in aortic stenosis
- Implementing an OPAT service at King's College Hospital
- Opt out testing of blood borne viruses in EDs and
- Managing chronic neurological conditions (epilepsy, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, neuromuscular disease)

These will continue for a second year as planned, with potential extension to the aortic stenosis and neurology pilots, pending funding confirmation.

The team will initiate pilots in chronic kidney disease management and virtual FND rehab in 2023/24, and is exploring new pilots in line with NHS England regional priorities.





# Transformation

## South London pilot updates

### Cardiac

#### **New report: Addressing inequalities in heart valve disease**

Through national benchmarking of transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) intervention rates, the South London Cardiac ODN identified significant variation in access in parts of South East London (SEL): the TAVI intervention rate was eight times higher in the White population than in the Black population, even when controlling for other factors.

Extensive community engagement with SEL Black African and Caribbean people aimed to understand attitudes and awareness of heart valve disease as well as barriers to care.

*(continues on next page)*

#### **1 STUDY AIMS**

We wanted to engage with BAAC communities to understand:

- Awareness of heart valve disease
- Attitudes towards HVD and treatment
- Ways to increase levels of trust and engagement
- How to encourage culturally sensitive clinical communications



#### **2 PARTICIPANTS**

We recruited 86 people from BAAC communities aged 50 and older (56% female, 44% male). They were recruited through culturally sensitive promotional materials, and watched a video on HVD to participate.

#### **3 METHOD**

The study was based on the Theoretical Framework of Acceptability.

We used surveys, focus groups, and 1:1 interviews for qualitative and quantitative insight.



#### **4 SELECT FINDINGS**

- Historic / current racialised health inequality impacts trust in the healthcare system
- Ethnicity not sensitively considered by clinical teams in diagnosis / treatment



- High acceptability of community sites / mobile units for screening, including pharmacy
- Trust with providers can significantly mitigate wider system mistrust

#### **5 SELECT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Develop NHS-led culturally sensitive written and video based communications for use at diagnosis
- Embed treatment options and autonomy during treatment discussions into face to face diagnosis
- Empower and enable community led support
- Deploy cultural sensitivity training to care teams
- Create space for lifestyle impacts and alternative treatments



“  
*It's not that people don't want to get fixed.*

*It's probably because most of our hearts are broken already and need fixing.*  
”



**Read the full report**  
[slcn.nhs.uk](https://slcn.nhs.uk)



# Transformation

## South London pilot updates Cardiac

### (cont'd) New report: Addressing inequalities in heart valve disease

Our report, ***Addressing inequalities in heart valve disease***, provides insight and recommendations on what we can do, including the need for our healthcare system to sensitively consider ethnicity, lifestyle and environment of patients - treating each patient as a holistic person.

### Next steps

This insight has **far broader relevance far beyond cardiac services**. We have reached out to ICB and London medical directors to understand how we can share and consolidate our learnings.

The Valve Inequity Steering Group, led by Prof Phil MacCarthy, KCH consultant cardiologist, will take forward the recommendations. The group is currently focussed on phase 2 of the pilot; **establishing community based diagnostic clinics**, based in GP practices in Lewisham. We are preparing to launch in April at the Waldron Health Centre (North Lewisham PCN) and have capacity to extend this across the Borough and will work with the ICB and PCN health inequity fellows to achieve this.

Alongside this, the group is reviewing data on aortic valve disease to **understand racial and gender-based differences** in presenting symptoms and outcomes, with the aim of using these learnings to develop guidance for clinicians to improve detection, diagnosis and management.



Download the  
infographic

**Read the  
report**  
Addressing  
inequalities in heart  
valve disease



### Addressing inequalities in heart valve disease:

*Building trust in Black African and  
Caribbean communities*

Clinicians found a stark difference in the diagnosis and treatment rates of heart valve disease (HVD) in Black African and Caribbean (BAAC) communities.

We wanted to know why.

# Transformation

## South London pilot updates

### Cardiac

#### KCH OPAT service making impact

The King's College Hospital OPAT service plans to expand to ensure all suitable patients are discharged on OPAT. The service also aims to increase the number of patients who are taught to self-administer antibiotics at home, which will allow benefits to the patient (care closer to home and a better experience) whilst simultaneously returning benefits to the trust (increased capacity and reduced costs).

Internally, the team is now working to raise awareness of the service and receive referrals across cardiology, cardiothoracic, haematology, liver, and neurology services. Externally, the team is exploring opportunities for an OPAT service with other providers across the network.

A business case will be presented to the King's Investment Board in March to ensure ongoing commitment and embedding.

[Read more about the OPAT project.](#)

#### OPAT at a glance

**1,181** bed days saved  
1 Sep 2022 - 21 Jan 2023

**53** patients treated  
across brain abscess, osteomyelitis, diabetic foot, pyelonephritis / ITU, and spinal discitis / epidural abscess

**WIDE** geography  
West (Hounslow), south (Hampshire), and east (Dover) – plus six South London boroughs

#### Positive patient feedback

"My mental and physical health are in a far better state because of the OPAT service."



# Transformation

## South London pilot updates

### Blood borne virus screening in EDs

#### HIV

##### South London uptake and impact

Across South London, more than 250,000 HIV tests have been done in 10 months (Apr 2022-Jan 2023), with increased uptake in both South West London (71%) and South East London (83%).

To date, there have been 96 new HIV diagnoses. For every 2,600 HIV tests, a patient is newly diagnosed with HIV. Each diagnosis of HIV saves £100,000 through better management and reduced transmission.

There have been 60 patients identified as lost to follow up, with a similar proportion of patients across SEL and SWL. Identifying these patients in ED provides an opportunity for teams to re-engage with them and bring them into care.

The team is reviewing those patients newly diagnosed or identified as lost to follow up to investigate health outcomes, partner notification and levels of engagement in care.



#### Hepatitis B and C

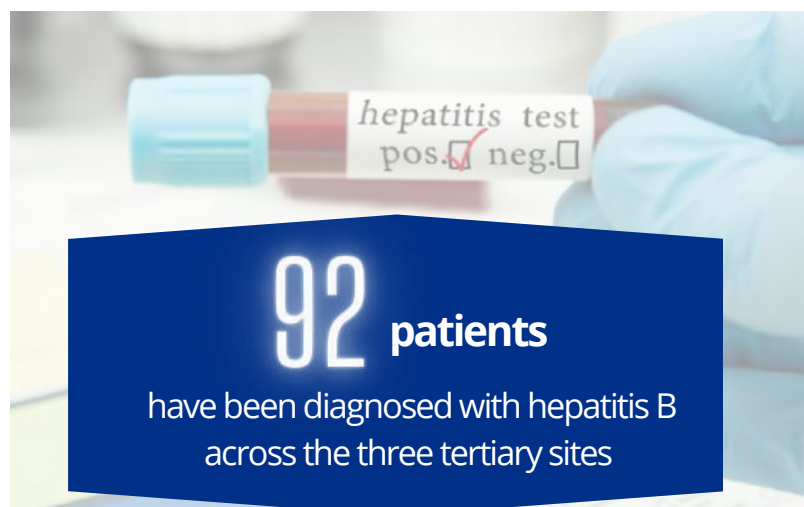
##### South London uptake and impact

Opt out hepatitis B and C testing is live at the three tertiary South London site EDs (Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital, St George's Hospital).

In South East London, GSTT, KCH, and LGT are collaborating to embed consistent demographic data capture for greater insight into patients and the programme.

Croydon University Hospital, University Hospital Lewisham, Queen Elizabeth Woolwich, and Epsom and St Helier hope to expand testing and launch hepatitis B and C testing soon, with plans for Kingston Hospital and Princess Royal University Hospital to launch later in the year. The team is working with sites to prepare for rollout, addressing and unblocking issues.

In the first three months of testing, 26 patients were diagnosed with hepatitis C. ED testing is seen as an important strategy in the NHS's ambition to eliminate hepatitis C by 2025.



There will be national funding to continue the pilots in 2023/24, and the team continues to work with trust finance leads on optimised allocations.



# Transformation

## South London pilot updates

### Neurology

Managing chronic conditions – Improving case management across care settings for the four most common neurological conditions – epilepsy, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and neuromuscular disorder – for care closer to home with seamless patient navigation.

The South West London and Surrey Neurosciences Network Board will meet 3 March to review and progress transformation priorities across the network, including projects in chronic conditions (Parkinson's disease, functional neurological disorder, and multiple sclerosis).

The data and evaluation working group has recommenced, with representation across South West London and Surrey Heartlands ICBs plus NHS England. Work includes development of an epilepsy dashboard, as part of the population health management (PHM) pilot, with data collection initiated by the Surrey Heartlands PHM team. Development of a headache dashboard will follow.

A patient involvement strategy, in conjunction with South West London Neuro Voices is being finalised, and the team will work with the ICB on an implementation plan for a Neuro Voices group.

The team is seeking to produce a website for clinical colleagues, and is working with NHS Digital to acquire an NHS.uk domain on which network resources can be shared.



# Transformation

## South London pilot updates

Renal

**KIDNEY  
HEALTH  
FOR ALL**

PREPARING FOR  
THE UNEXPECTED,  
SUPPORTING  
THE VULNERABLE!



#worldkidneyday #kidneyhealthforall  
[www.worldkidneyday.org](http://www.worldkidneyday.org)

World Kidney Day is a joint  ISN  Initiative

### Celebrating World Kidney Day

**World Kidney Day**, on 9 March, aims to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys. Kidney disease affects 335,000 people in London. The London Kidney Network (LKN) aims to improve patient outcomes and experience across the entire kidney care pathway, working in collaboration with integrated care boards, renal units and with patients.

In honour of World Kidney Day, the LKN Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) prevention workstream is hosting a **free educational webinar on 9 March**, 13:30 – 14:35. It will focus on identifying, managing and coding CKD in primary care. A panel of experts will take questions and are keen to hear your thoughts and spark lively discussions.

This webinar is open to all, but is particularly aimed at people working in primary care, including GPs, pharmacists and practice nurses. We invite you to share this opportunity with colleagues.

### **Register for the 9 March London Kidney Network CKD webinar**

Questions may be directed to [lkn.londonkidneynetwork@nhs.net](mailto:lkn.londonkidneynetwork@nhs.net), using the subject heading *CKD webinar*.

# Transformation

## South London pilot updates

### Renal

#### Going for GOLD in kidney transplantation

Since being appointed co-chairs of the LKN Transplant Collaborative workstream, Sapna Shah, consultant nephrologist at King's College Hospital (KCH), Ismail Mohamed, consultant general, transplant and vascular access surgeon at Barts Health, and Lisa Silas, advanced nurse practitioner at Guy's and St Thomas' (GSTT), have worked at pace alongside their London colleagues to transform kidney transplant care in the capital.

Workstream members have agreed cardiac, vascular and polycystic kidney disease (PKD) assessment protocols and an 18-week pathway which are out for review at transplanting centres. Work is also underway to agree a single referral pathway from units to the centres. The outputs of a detailed transplant pathway mapping workshop will be used to share good practice, identify local and pan London bottlenecks, and agree a way forward to transform and improve.

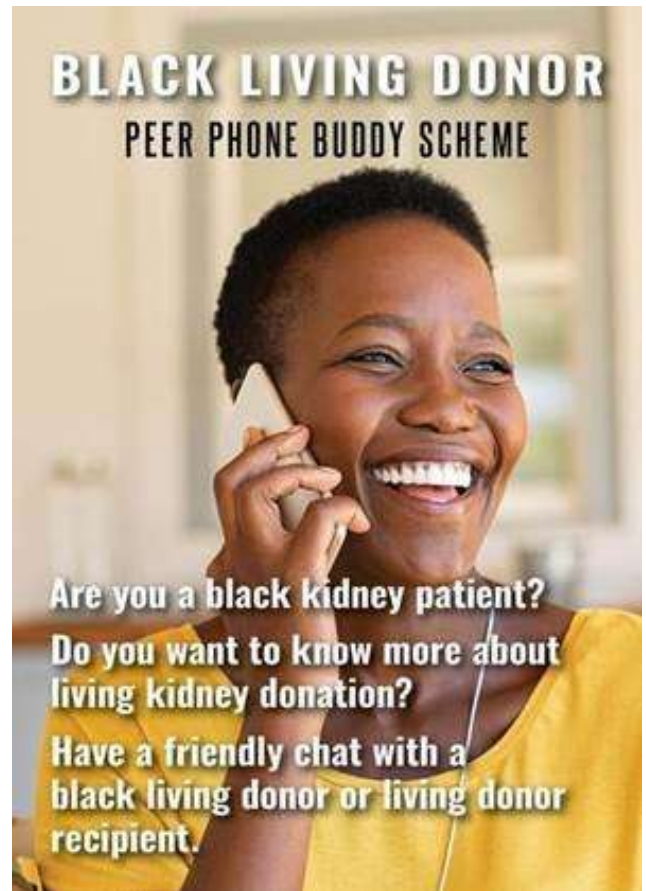
There is known inequity of access for living donation for people who identify as Black across London. Following an initial pilot of community intervention at Imperial, a wider pilot of the GOLD – Gift of Living Donation – programme launched on 1 February across Guy's and St Thomas', King's College Hospital and Imperial.

GOLD is a Black African Caribbean community organisation working to raise awareness of living kidney donation in the Black community. Empowering patients to have early conversations about living donation with family and friends has always been core to their vision of changing the lives of Black people with end-stage kidney disease through living donation.

This extended pilot seeks to:

- Improve access to living donation
- Create health equity
- Reduce the number needing dialysis
- Promote early conversations of living donation
- Increase pre-emptive transplantation
- Improve patient experience.

#### **Learn more about GOLD**



# Transformation

## South London renal updates

### Renal

#### LKN CKD prevention workstream

The LKN chronic kidney disease (CKD) prevention workstream is making great progress with supporting primary care to identify and optimise management of CKD early.

Key pieces of work include:

- 9 March launch of the **Coding CKD in primary care – LKN expert consensus guidelines**
- **CKD webinar** on 9 March, focusing on identifying, managing and coding CKD in primary care. An expert panel will answer participant questions.
- Implementation support of the LKN **CKD early identification and optimisation pathways**, launched September 2022. These will feature in the RSTP CKD integrated best practice toolkit
- Implementation support of **NICE Technology Appraisal 775, Dapagliflozin** for treating CKD
- **ICS collaboration** to develop and deliver their CKD prevention objectives/plans (eg, SEL CKD working group)
- Working with Imperial College Health Partners and Discover-NOW team to **redesign the CKD care pathway**, providing an integral role to patient and public engagement. Tested solutions are being rolled out at scale
- A **resource support / educational package for primary care**, to include patient and clinical information
- Submitted funding proposal (£250K) with ICS stakeholders for a one year **data at scale improvement project** in 2023/24



**Subscribe to the LKN newsletter online.**



**Email the team**

For more information on LKN workstreams and expert advisory group activities, please contact [lkn.londonkidneynetwork@nhs.net](mailto:lkn.londonkidneynetwork@nhs.net)



#### Kidney Beam: Feel good

The LKN is pleased to be working with Kidney Beam, an online service providing exercise and wellbeing information, free to anyone in London with chronic kidney disease.

Classes seek to meet the needs of everyone, whether already very active, or thinking about increasing physical activity.

Visit Beam online or contact Sharlene Greenwood, consultant physiotherapist at King's College Hospital, [sharlene.greenwood@nhs.net](mailto:sharlene.greenwood@nhs.net).

#### Help for home therapies

To support patients with the high cost of electricity when dialysing at home, the home therapies workstream published collaborative guidelines on home therapies reimbursement.

The guidelines provide an equitable approach to reimbursement. The LKN have been working with operational leads and renal units to support implementation of these guidelines, and will review their impact in the 2023/24.





## The commissioning and funding landscape is changing.

*South London ICSs and tertiary providers have taken the opportunity to work collaboratively to integrate specialised services and deliver an end to end pathway approach for patients.*

---

Integrated care systems (ICSs) in England are taking on delegation of specialised services from NHS England. The South London programme ensures the necessary infrastructure and operating models are in place to achieve success for our patient populations.

### South London partners

- [Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [South East London Integrated Care System](#)
- [South West London Integrated Care System](#)
- [The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust](#)

**[Download the overview.](#)**



## Want to know more?

**Would you like more information on the specialised services programme?**

We would be happy to speak with you and your colleagues to answer any questions you may have.

**[Contact the team.](#)**