

Cardiology and Respiratory service redesign in Thames Valley



Since June 2014, Optum™ has been working with 10 clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) in the Thames Valley region, reviewing cardiology and respiratory provision within the local health economy. The Thames Valley CCGs were keen to review cardiology and respiratory to identify opportunities for efficiencies and improvement.

An area of potentially unnecessary spend is within London, where 'legacy' patient pathways continue. The Thames Valley CCGs attract additional cost for London activity (through the Market Forces Factor (MFF)), and do not have full control over contractual levers (operating only as associate commissioners with limited budgets). It is considered that a better grip on cardiology and respiratory pathways will enable greater care quality control, including development of effective, evidence-based pathways, financial efficiency and removal of unnecessary patient burden. The project sets out to deliver extensive data review and contract management, and will also seek overall pathway revision.

In working with the wider Optum commissioning hub, the team has already undertaken an initial analysis of the data and presented to CCG leads. The team has also entered into discussions with provider stakeholders with regards to activity flows and contract values.

Future plans:

- Continue provider engagement in order to determine available options.
- Compile and publish final cardiology and respiratory report detailing Optum findings and recommendations for commissioners.
- Agree upon preferred option(s) with CCG leads and key clinical stakeholders.
- Develop and implement preferred option(s), including embedding robust contractual levers into both local and London cardiology and respiratory contracts.

Potential benefits:

- The project will provide a complete commissioning service for the 10 CCGs purchasing cardiology and respiratory from all secondary care providers, both locally and in London.
- The project will deliver extensive data review and contract management, and will seek overall pathway revision.
- It is expected that a reduction in payment of MFF will materialise into real savings for the CCGs.
- Realise improved quality of care for patients in line with the Closer-to-Home agenda.
- The local health economy will be positively impacted.
- The cardiology and respiratory report will provide intelligence that can feed into wider commissioning plans.



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