

# **Collaborative Working Project between Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust and AbbVie Ltd**

## **Executive Summary**

This is an executive summary outlining a Collaborative Working Project between Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust (GSTT) and AbbVie Ltd, focused on working with both the gastroenterology and pharmacy departments of Guys and ST Thomas NHS Foundation Trust to facilitate the optimisation of the journey for patients requiring advanced therapy. Through mapping the whole patient journey, bottlenecks will be identified and can be addressed, the multi-disciplinary team can develop / optimise specialist services and/or clinics.

There is a need to review the current patient journey to enhance patient care.

We are undertaking this Collaborative working project work to achieve the following:

- Introduction of a band 6 healthcare professional as a support role.
- Raise the standards of care by understanding the journey from when an advanced therapy is prescribed through the specific pharmacist led clinic through patient mapping exercise.
- Identify bottlenecks and areas where improvements can be made to facilitate greater patient care and agree appropriate interventions.
- Identify medical education needs and provide support to HCPs to advance their clinical practice to support the patient journey through the service
- Optimise the skill mix of the pharmacy team to better co-ordinate patient care.
- Optimise the different channels of communication both internally and externally with IBD patients.
- Measure outcomes to highlight impact on the service to secure long-term funding for the role.
- Share learnings between services through supporting publications where relevant and appropriate

The purpose of this Collaborative working project will be to measure outcomes to support a future business case for on-going funding for a healthcare professional role to a level of band 6, as well as sharing best practices with other NHS Trusts who are keen to optimise their advanced therapies pathway to improve patients' standards of care.

This needs-led, outcome focused approach will deliver improved patient outcomes, improved patient experience and improved patient engagement with their gastroenterology clinical team.

In undertaking this work, the project team would aim to impact on the following specific outcomes:

- Shorter time between MDT decision and patient initiation (earlier patient initiation on their first/ next advanced therapy)
- Timely monitoring (against specific time points) over the first 6 months of treatment
- Increased patient satisfaction
- Number of patients managed through the clinic over 6-month period (advanced therapy initiated and managed through a small molecule clinic)
- Appropriate and timely management of adverse effects

Within the project the key objectives are:

- Introduction of a band 6 healthcare professional as a support role.
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This project will be conducted within the current GSTT structure and led by the project NHS Lead Esha Sharma, Senior Gastroenterology Pharmacist & AbbVie Lead Sarah La Hausse, Healthcare Partnership Manager

The project effective date will be 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and approximate date for completion would be December 2025

The Intended Benefits of the Project:

The Patient:

- Improved patient care outcomes measured by reduced waiting times for new and routine appointments (see monitoring outcomes)
- Standardised pathway for IBD patients
- Enhanced patient satisfaction

The NHS:

- Improved service capacity as indicated by reduced referral times for new and routine appointments.
- Implementation of agreed pathway to allow standardisation of assessment and monitoring of IBD patients.
- Empowerment of patients to be active partners in their care,
- A safe reduction in routine outpatient appointments
- Better co-ordination of patient care and multidisciplinary teamwork leading to cross functional working between gastroenterology clinical team and pharmacy.
- Enhanced and streamlined specialist service provision.
- Opportunity for audit, research, quality improvement projects and publications.
- Educational needs of MDT identified and addressed, enhancing patient care.
- Initiation of optimisation of specialist care/clinics where necessary
- Best practice sharing across the NHS through sharing outputs of the project with other services and trusts

AbbVie:

- Improved reputation as a partner of choice for opportunities to improve patient standards of care.
- Support AbbVie's position as leaders within the immunology landscape.
- Gain valuable insights and develop further understanding of the NHS challenges to provide specialist patient care to inform further initiatives to improve standards of care

Funding:

This project is a shared contribution of time between Guys and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust and AbbVie. Funding for a Band 6 Health Care Professional of £59,591 for 1 year will be provided by AbbVie.

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