

25th September 2020

To: South London, Kent, Surrey and Sussex cardiology and cardiac surgery colleagues
NHS England (London region)
RE: Updates to the inter hospital transfer (IHT) system

Dear colleagues,

Embedded use of the Teleologic inter-hospital transfer (IHT) system has been a key priority for the South London Cardiac Operational Delivery Network (ODN) and its provider stakeholders. Two years ago, the ODN led a successful change process to integrate King's College (KCH) and Guy's and St Thomas' (GSTT) hospitals IHT wait lists as King's Health Partners Cardiovascular (KHP-C).

With growing collaboration between the three south London tertiary centres, plus the COVID-19 context of operational pressures, **the ODN will now extend integration of the existing KHP-C IHT referral lists to St George's Hospital (SGUH) for an allied south London approach to all specialist cardiology and cardiac surgery transfers. This will go live on Teleologic on Monday 5th October.**

Since the initial "surge" phase of COVID-19, the majority of services have resumed and the phased relaxation of lockdown has resulted in a week-on-week increase in the number of patients for IHT. We are already operating at normal IHT levels – and expect that we will soon surpass historic activity.

With growing elective wait lists, increasing IHT activity and an NHS England expectation that trusts return to near-normal activity levels between now and winter as part of the Phase 3 response to the COVID-19 pandemic¹, we must ensure optimal use of our resources in a flexible way.

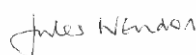
With a joint IHT referral list for GSTT, KCH and SGUH, referring centres can refer to all three tertiary trusts across cardiology and cardiac surgery in a single IHT request. Referrers will continue to have the option to express preferred site(s), which has been updated to a simplified checkbox (rather than free text). This will ensure greater clarity of preferences and better monitoring through reports.

The IHT system and joint wait list integration for GSTT and KCH have proven effective for delivering care more quickly and equitably through reduced transfer times and wait time variation. By including SGUH within the existing process, we create a consistent, system approach of efficient, high quality care for cardiology and cardiac surgery patients across the entire region.

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact Fardeen Choudhury, Cardiac Network Project Manager by email: Fardeen.Choudhury@gstt.nhs.uk.

Kind regards,

Professor Julia Wendon



Chair, South London Cardiac ODN
Executive Medical Director: Clinical Strategy
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
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¹ NHS England and NHS Improvement, COVID-19 Phase 3 Letter (July 2020) | [Link](#)