



**South Wales, South West Managed Clinical
Network for Cleft Lip and Palate**
**Reference document for the MCN and Network
board**



Background

1. The service commenced in 2003 across South Wales and the South West of England.
2. The organisational framework for the service is a Managed Clinical Network (MCN).
3. The creation of the MCN was intended to, through greater collaboration and sharing of expertise, enhance the level and availability of care even further, such that all patients would, over time, benefit from the standards of service set out in the CSAG document and HSC 1998/238.
4. The MCN delivers surgical care in the lead centres on two surgical sites and operates multi-disciplinary clinics in other DGHs within the network.
5. The lead centres are the University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust and Swansea Bay University Health Board, Morriston Hospital, Swansea, together with supporting cleft services based in District General Hospitals and in the community across the network.
6. Cleft teams within the network provided a high quality service to patients in their respective areas.
7. The teams are led by a Clinical Director in South Wales and a Clinical Director in the South West.
8. The services adhere to the National service specification 2013 NHS England (DO7/S/a) for Cleft Lip and/or Palate Services including non-cleft Velopharyngeal Dysfunction (VPD) (All ages).
9. The MCN has established relationships since 1998 with neighbouring Cleft Networks in the West Midlands and Oxford/Salisbury, particularly in relation to audit, professional development, new techniques and sharing best practice at the Treble Cleft Group.

Lead Centres

There are two Lead Centres based in Bristol and Swansea. Geographically, the MCN covers:

South Wales -

The unitary authorities of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, Pembrokeshire, Powys, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Swansea, Torfaen, and Vale of Glamorgan.

South West England -

The counties and unitary authorities of Gloucestershire, South Gloucestershire, City of Bristol, Wiltshire (part only), Bath & NE Somerset, North Somerset, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

In addition, the Network has a number of supporting Units located in District General Hospitals in:-

South Wales: University Dental Hospital, Cardiff.

South West: Gloucester Royal Hospital
Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital
Derriford Hospital, Plymouth
Royal Cornwall Hospital, Truro

Purpose of the MCN

- ❖ To organise and co-ordinate the delivery of an integrated cleft lip and/or palate service and non-cleft Velopharyngeal Dysfunction.
- ❖ To improve the quality of service delivery and impact of cleft care by through a multi-centre, multi-specialist team working throughout the network that provides a high quality patient centred approach to care, with a focus on measured outcomes as part of an enhanced range of services.

Specific Objectives

These are to: -

- Provide timely and relevant ante-natal management.
- Co-ordinate the total care of the patient over at least the first 20 years of life.
- Ensure that the cleft lip and/or palate is well repaired and the child's growth, development, function and wellbeing maximised.
- Put in place arrangements for on-going care and treatment of adult patients where clinically indicated.
- Ensure that care is organised and provided in such a way that it: -
 - Respects the needs and wishes of the child, parent or guardian.
 - Optimises facial appearance.
 - Optimises speech.
 - Optimises dental health and hearing.
 - Enables appropriate occlusal and dental growth to the highest standard.
 - Optimises the psychological wellbeing of the patient and family.
 - Develop common protocols and care pathways, where appropriate
 - Works within the clinical protocols and treatment guidelines developed and agreed for the service.
 - Outcomes are measured against validated standards.

- Delivers patient care as outlined in the National and local Clinical Service specifications.
- Sustains co-operation with the Cleft Lip and Palate Association (CLAPA) on a national basis and where a regional service exists.

Managed Clinical Network Board (MCNB)

1. The network is organised and run through a MCNB chaired by the Clinical Directors.
2. The MCNB will include the specialty representatives from across the Network.
3. The benefits that a MCNB model brings to the organisation and delivery of services within the Network include:-
 - Development and implementation of common protocols
 - Design and implement joint audits
 - Ensuring compliance against the National and local Clinical Service Specifications across the network
 - Participating in local, national and international research programmes
 - An opportunity to discuss workforce developments, taking into account the long-term needs of the network, including succession planning
 - Sharing developments
 - Sharing care pathways and supporting each service i.e. cardiac patient's pathway.
 - Peer support
 - Plan and organise Network training events
 - Communicate with groups as required using the appropriate format i.e. reports/newsletters/presentations

Attendance

- Clinical Directors
- Leads or deputies from each specialty so that they represent the views of their units and contribute their expertise to the management and development of services across the network
- Network manager/coordinator
- Patient representative
- Invites to commissioners from both England and Wales as appropriate

Frequency of meetings

- Determined by the Board and decided whether these should be face to face verses virtual
- A minimum of one per year to a maximum of 3 per year

Possible Content of meetings

- Business and service updates will be provided via a newsletter prior to the meeting
- National and local issues arising
- Network training day planning

- Monitoring of CRANE/dashboard outcomes
- Sharing and developing common care pathways/protocols
- Agreeing joint audit projects
- Agreeing peer support methods