



Starting an OPAT Service in the midst of a pandemic

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Newham University Hospital

- District general hospital in Newham borough
 - Busy Emergency Department
 - General medicine and surgery
 - Large maternity service
 - Elective orthopaedics
 - Diabetic foot clinic
- Part of Barts Health NHS Trust
- Many services based at other sites
 - Royal London – specialist medicine/surgery, Infectious Diseases
 - St. Barts – cardiothoracics, haematology/oncology
 - Royal London/Whipps Cross - ENT



Newham Borough

- East London
- Estimated population 364,500
- Median age 32 years
- High burden of infectious diseases
- Many people in fragile employment
- Ideal population for OPAT but no formal service in place



Newham OPAT Service – the plan

- Infection consultant as medical lead
- OPAT specialist nurses – 2 posts to ensure constant cover
 - Major bottleneck – lack of vascular access; OPAT CNS to be trained to perform this service
- Dedicated pharmacist
- Administrative support

The reality when COVID hit...

- Infection consultant in locum post with sudden increase in workload
- Nursing posts not yet advertised
- Pharmacy funding yet to be agreed
- No admin support

What we had

2 Band 6 CNS

Consultant cover

An office

No clinical space

No equipment

What did we do?

Build relationships

Use Ambulatory Care space

Create pathways

PICC insertion training

Continually revise and evaluate

Act on feedback

Year One Data (April 2021 – April 2022)

- 75 patient episodes
- Bed days saved: total 1634, median 13
 - 76% expediting discharge, 24% admission avoidance
 - Access: 55% patients venflon only, 45% PICC insertion
 - Administration: 63% district nurses, 21% daily attendance, 16% self-admin
 - Outcomes: 91% successful, 5% relapse, 3 deaths (unrelated or expected)
 - Adverse reactions: 95% nil issues

**Thanks for
listening!**
Questions?

