

NEWS RELEASE

6th September 2007

MORE GPs TO INTRODUCE NHS SUMMARY CARE RECORD

Blackburn Street Health Centre Committed to NHS Summary Care Record

Bury PCT is delighted to announce that Dr MI Qureshi and Dr AJ Behrana from Blackburn Street Health Centre have opted to become early adopters of the NHS Care Records Service, bringing the total involved in the initiative to 24 practices.

Drs MI Qureshi, and Dr AJ Behrana's patients are being sent a letter and information pack giving further details about the Summary Care Record.

The majority of GP practices already hold their patients' medical records electronically, but this new system will mean that key information, initially consisting of allergies, current prescriptions and any previous bad reactions to medicines, will make up a 'Summary Care Record' for each patient. Staff in key locations in the local area, for example in A&E at Fairfield Hospital and GP Out-of Hours services, will be able to access the Summary Care Record of the patient they are treating through a secure computer network to help them provide better, safer care. Subsequently more information can be added to the Summary Care Record in agreement with individual patients.

Blackburn Street Health Centre patients who are being sent a letter have plenty of time to make a decision about their own record. Anyone who is happy with the process need not take any further action; a Summary Care Record will automatically be created for them after 27th December 2007.

Patients have the chance to opt out if they don't want their information to be stored in this way, and can change their minds at any time. Patients now have 16 weeks to make their decision about whether to have an NHS Summary Care Record. There are various places patients can visit for more information or seek advice over the phone.

Dr. Quershi from Blackburn Street Health Centre said: "we are looking forward to uploading key patient medical information to the national database allowing unscheduled care providers to make more accurate decisions."

He added: "this vital information can potentially save lives, if one of my patients went into A&E unconscious the doctors there would be able to see exactly what medication he/she was on and if they had any allergies."

Bury PCT, Associate Director of IM&T Ann Halpin said: “We will begin to upload patient records for the first wave of 23 practices from the 1st October 2007 and Blackburn Street patients will join the upload in December.”

Ann added: “the majority of patients that we have spoken to at the information centres, road shows and via the PALS information line are happy with having a Summary Care Record. I have even spoken to some patients who thought we already did this.”

Ultimately, the goal of the National Programme for Information Technology is for all patient records to be held electronically in this way across England. This will allow health care professionals in the NHS to securely access key medical information wherever and whenever it is needed to provide better, safer healthcare for patients.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

The NHS Summary Care Records is the first step in establishing the NHS Care Records Service, part of the National Programme for Information Technology (NPfIT). NHS Connecting for Health (CFH), a national agency of the Department of Health, is supporting local NHS organisations to deliver the programme. Over a ten year period (which began in 2004) this programme will connect GPs, hospitals and other NHS facilities and change the way the NHS works. Other developments include Electronic Transfer of Prescriptions, Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS) which allows digital storage of X-rays and other images, GP2GP and many more.

Local Bury info

- Bury is the second PCT in the country to enable patient information to be shared electronically between health professionals in different health organisations.
- The Summary Care Record consists of key information such as allergies, current prescriptions and any previous adverse reactions to medicines will be available to people treating patients in need of urgent care in a range of locations, to help them provide more accurate, safer and swifter care.

For further information about the Bury PCT Early Adopter Summary Care Record programme please contact Sandip Kaur NE Sector NPfIT Communication Lead (0161 655 1736),

For information about the National Programme for information Technology (NPfIT) in England please visit www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk