

Jo Noble

Heart Failure Nurse,
Clinical Lead.

Aims

- Heart failure nurse role in Oxfordshire community
- How the service works
- New developments

Origins of the Service

- April 2002 - Scheme commenced by British Heart Foundation to fund posts for heart failure specialist nurses in hospital and primary care trusts across UK.
- September 2003 - Oxford City PCT submit successful bid to BHF.
- By December 2004 - 3 WTE nurses in post across Oxfordshire (funded by BHF and employed by PCT's).
- 2007 : 2 further wte nurses recruited (non BHF).
- BHF funding ceased December 2007 but service continues and is now part of CHO nursing and 2nd Tier services.

Referral Criteria

1. Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction must be confirmed by echocardiogram.
2. New York Heart Association (NYHA) classification grade III/IV.
3. Hospital admission with heart failure within last 6 months
4. Requiring palliative care for heart failure.
5. Non LVSD patients will be considered if cardiology support is present and if capacity allows.

Referral from GP, secondary care, district nurse or case manager

Meets referral criteria.

yes

no

HFN has phone contact within 5 working days

HFN undertakes home visit within 10 working days for full physical / social assessment.

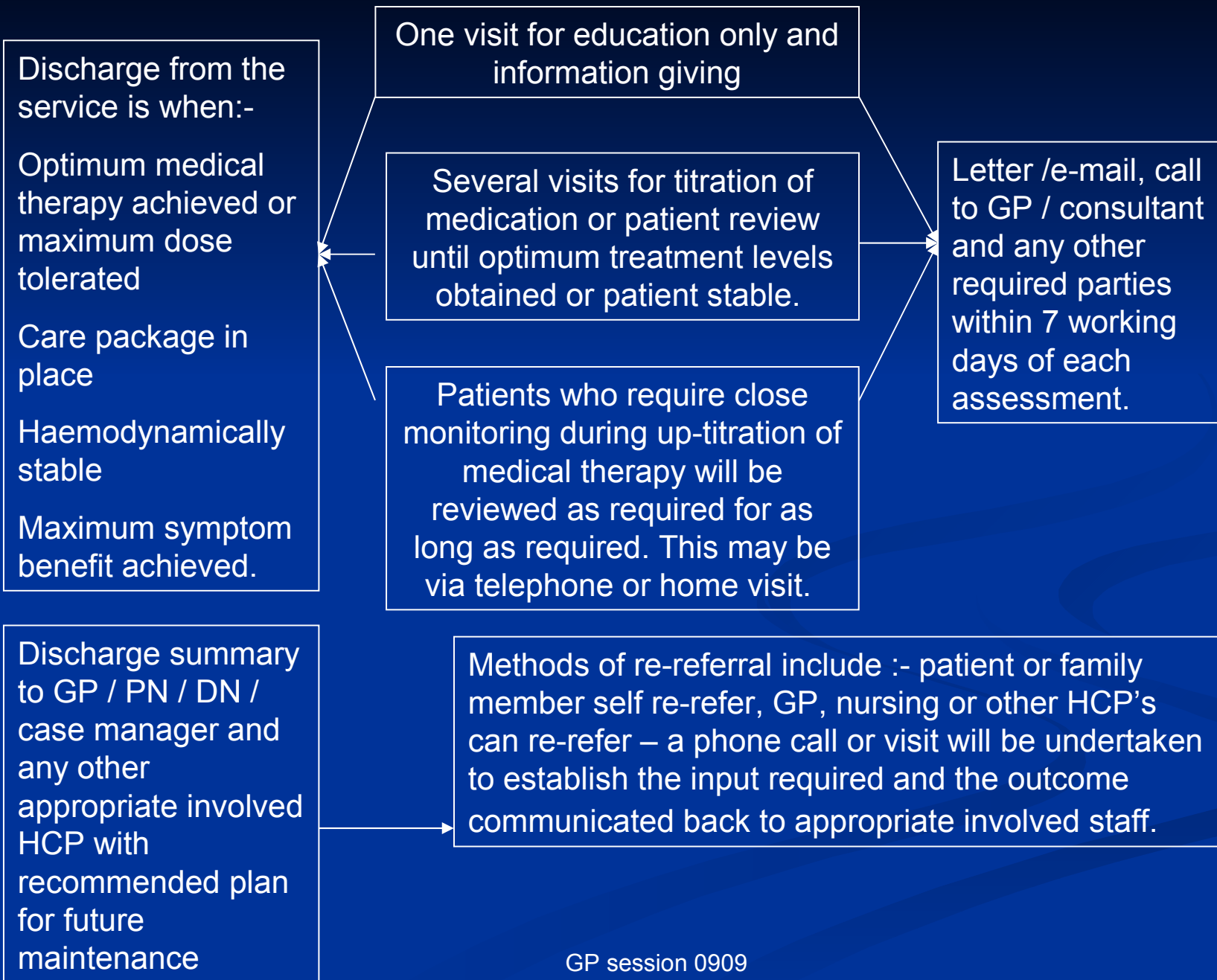
Current support available:-

- Optimisation of medical therapy as required with appropriate blood chemistry monitoring
- Symptom management
- Lifestyle advice / education
- Referral to other services / agencies as necessary
- Psychological support to patient / carer.

Service input will be decided upon individually after the initial visit

Suggest referral to other service if appropriate

Patient held record given to patient including HFN contact details, NICE guidelines, BHF booklets as appropriate.



How to make the referral?

- Referrals for the CITY and NORTH go to fax 01865 402709
- Referrals for SOUTH and WEST go to fax 01235 205556
- Referral form (or)
- Letter (or)
- Telephone call
- Ask receptionist to fax patient summary and list of medications

Who refers to us?

- Cardiologist, ORH / HGH
- Medical clinic
- Heart failure nurse, ORH
- GP
- CCU / Cardiology / ICD clinic / medical ward
- DN / case manager
 - (GP must be aware)

New developments

- 1 – 2 month trial aiming to identify all patients with LVSD who are admitted to hospital with ACS.
- For patients with persistent LVSD at 6 weeks a letter will be sent to the GP identifying the ejection fraction.
- Community heart failure nurses in city and south will be able to support routine titration for these patients through their clinics should GP's find this useful.
- NYHA I and II may be considered for clinic review and medication titration in city and south – this will be reviewed at the end of the pilot.

New Developments cont.

- Clinics established in Witney, Abingdon and Oxford City –
 - aim to support stable patients who require review or ongoing support,
 - to carry out routine up titration of ACE and beta blockers on stable patients.
 - The community heart failure nurse will carry out an initial home visit then decide whether relevant for clinic visits.
 - Previously mentioned ACS / LVSD patients if stable will be seen through clinic – not home visits

The Heart Failure Team

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In summary we will...

- Assist with management of patient's heart failure through close liaison with referring team and GP.
- Support & educate patient / family / carers.
- Support & educate MDT.
- Refer to other agencies as necessary.
- Keep patient on caseload until condition stable or optimal drug therapy achieved.

- Assist with up-titration of medication with associated clinical/biochemistry monitoring.
- Order home oxygen where appropriate.
- Carry out joint home visits i.e. Case Manager / DN / GP / Respiratory / MacMillan Nurses.
- Be involved at end-stage / in palliative care situation / liaise with palliative care services.

Secondary care support

- Consultant Cardiologists
Dr Jeremy Dwight/ Dr Ian Arnold.
- Monthly clinical caseload supervision.
- Telephone and email support.
- Heart Failure Nurse Specialist Helen Jackson