



Cedar Healthcare Technology Research Centre

Quarterly Bulletin

Cedar is committed to supporting patient-centred, evidence-based care through research and evaluation of health interventions, technologies, and NHS services.

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About us

Cedar is a NHS-academic research centre within Cardiff & Vale UHB staffed by experienced and multi-disciplinary researchers. Our areas of expertise include: research, evaluation, health economics, and evidence reviews.



Merry Christmas from the Cedar Team!

Cedar News

- ◆ We have recently welcomed 3 new members of staff: Huey Yi (Health Economist), Katherine (Senior Researcher), and Kornelia (Administrator)
- ◆ The [VAP-X trial](#) managed by Cedar has started recruiting patients in the ITU department of University Hospital of Wales
- ◆ Kathleen Withers, Cedar's deputy director, has published [QOL and PROMS in Catheter Ablation of Cardiac Arrhythmia](#)
- ◆ Read the [executive summary](#) of our work with Moondance Cancer Initiative exploring the experiences, needs and priorities of Bowel Cancer Patients in Wales.
- ◆ Cedar is delighted to be working with Cardiff Metropolitan University and Swansea University, in a project supported by Welsh Crucible
- ◆ Cedar attended the [ICHOM conference](#) in Boston with colleagues from [Welsh Value in Health Centre](#)
- ◆ We have received the 50th response to our [PREADAPT-Sepsis](#) online survey

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University Health Board



Project Highlights

POLARIS



POLARIS

Pathway of Low Anterior Resection Syndrome relief after Surgery

[POLARIS](#) is an international clinical trial to investigate treatments for Low Anterior Resection Syndrome (LARS). LARS is collection of symptoms that people who have undergone surgery on their rectum may experience which negatively impact their quality of life. The trial is funded by the [NIHR-HTA](#) (£1.8 million) and will be led by surgeon Mrs Julie Cornish (Cardiff & Vale UHB). Cedar will be responsible for several parts of the trial. We will carry out the health economic assessments of the cost-effectiveness of the treatments. We will also undertake a qualitative sub-study to understand patients' experiences of LARS treatments, and do a process evaluation to add context the main findings of the trial.



SWAN CLINIC

SYNDROME WITHOUT A NAME

SWAN Clinic

An evaluation of the pilot of the SWAN Clinic is being conducted by Cedar as part of their role within the Welsh Value in Health Centre (WViHC). The evaluation aims to assess the clinical effectiveness

and value of the SWAN Clinic in terms of patient experience and outcomes. This will be achieved through patient surveys (including Patient Reported Outcomes Measures (PROMs) and Patient Reported Experience Measures (PREMs)), and interviews with patients, their family members and carers, and staff. Learn more about the SWAN clinic in this [BBC News article](#).

Optilume

Cedar is pleased to have contributed to the recently published NICE guidance on Optilume for treating recurrent bulbar urethral strictures. Optilume is a urethral balloon coated with paclitaxel which dilates to widen the stricture and deliver paclitaxel to the urethral tissue, with the aim of preventing new tissue growth and reducing scar formation. NICE's committee decided that while Optilume appears effective in the short-term, more research is needed on the long-term outcomes. The full recommendations can be found here: [NICE Medical Technologies Guidance for Optilume](#).

Staff Spotlight

In this issue's Staff Spotlight, we speak to Dr Michal Pruski:

Tell us a bit about you and your role

I am an HSST trainee in Health Informatics and I split my time between Cedar and doing some clinical work in the Medical Physics department, but when I am in Cedar I will be either giving a hand with some of the PROMs work or with literature reviews.



What 3 words would you use to describe Cedar?

Academic, relaxed, versatile.

Tell us about something you're particularly proud of.

Being a dad. But if you are asking for something more exciting than convincing an off-duty bus driver at a big festival to take my colleague, me, our patient and their buddy to the field hospital because we were out of ambulances and means of effectively managing them on the spot.

Choose a superpower.

Bilocation - it could let me be at work and on holiday at the same time!

What is a fact about you that people would be surprised by?

That I have triple nationality but I was not born in any of these countries.

Workstream Showcase - Welsh Value in Health Centre

Cedar's Deputy Director, Kathleen Withers, discusses Cedar's role in supporting the WViHC:

Value based healthcare focuses on delivering the outcomes that matter to people, with the resources that are available. We can do this by involving patients in decision making, and asking them what is important to them by using tools such as Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs).

Cedar is a key partner to the [WViHC](#) and we lead the research and evaluation activity for the programme as well as providing analytical capacity with outputs including reports, presentations and publications. We also provide advice on PROMs selection and licensing and lead Welsh language PROM translation. Our work with stakeholders including patients, the public and clinical teams provides a sound evidence base for decision-making in Wales.



To talk to the team about your project, please contact us or fill in our [Support Request Form](#)