CEDAR: Centre for Healthcare Evaluation, Device Assessment and Research

Quarterly Bulletin

March 2024, Issue 6

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

CEDAR News

- A very warm welcome to Agatha Grove-Hills who has recently joined the CEDAR team.
- CEDAR's recent evaluation of the IBD service in CAV UHB found positive results on patient satisfaction, reduced emergency admissions and surgeries. The evaluation also found a potential cost benefit due to a shift in cost from emergency survey to use of biologics. The full results of the evaluation can be found here.
- The Welsh Value in Health Centre (WViHC) recently welcomed visitors from Saudi Arabia who were very impressed to learn of the work being done in collaboration with CEDAR to improve health outcomes across Wales.
- CEDAR has held the first Professional Advisory Group meeting for a project exploring patient empowerment tools and health literacy.
- CEDAR was recently involved in evaluating the clinical and cost-effectiveness of two medical technologies on behalf of NICE; the guidance is in development and will be published in early April: GaitSmart MTG575 and Kurin Lock MTG582.

CEDAR call for volunteers:

- We are conducting a refresh of the core National Patient Reported Experience Measure (PREM) tool for patients in Wales, and are looking for volunteers to help test and validate the updated PREM. To get involved, visit our website *here*.

- Are you on a waiting list for a gastroscopy or recently had a gastroscopy? We are looking for volunteers to take part in a survey about your experience and any suggestions you have for how the service could be improved. Click *here* to complete our survey.

CEDAR attended the 2024 Wales Cancer Research Conference – A day of interesting discussions on topics such as patient and public involvement in research and socioeconomic inequalities in cancer diagnosis.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

GaitSmart NICE Medical Technologies Guidance

CEDAR is pleased to have contributed to the development of NICE medical technology guidance on GaitSmart. GaitSmart is a sensor-based digital technology designed to measure lower limb movement, which works alongside personalised rehabilitation exercises for people with gait and mobility issues. NICE's draft guidance suggests that the GaitSmart rehabilitation exercise programme shows promise for gait and mobility issues in people at risk of falls, and people having hip or knee replacements. However, the draft guidance indicates there was not enough evidence to support the case for routine adoption and further research was consequently recommended. The full recommendations will be published in early April here: NICE Medical Technologies Guidance for GaitSmart.

CanSense

CEDAR has been conducting a health economic assessment for CanSense to evaluate the financial and clinical impact the technology might have on endoscopy waiting lists in Cardiff and Vale UHB. CanSense, based in Swansea, are developing a fast, inexpensive blood test for the early diagnosis of bowel cancer using artificial intelligence-based modelling. The hope is that it can reduce bowel cancer mortality through early diagnosis, and reduce the demands on the endoscopy service by offering an alternative to diagnosis via an invasive colonoscopy. The test is currently being developed with the hope of being implemented into the Welsh NHS within the next 12 months.

Patient Reported Experience Measure (PREM) Refresh

Patient Reported Experience Measures or PREMs measure a person's experience of healthcare, and can help NHS Wales to understand patient satisfaction and improve services. To align data collection across Wales, a set of core PREMs was developed in 2013 and updated in 2017. To make sure that it remains relevant to current service provision, Welsh Government have commissioned CEDAR to undertake a 'refresh' of the core PREM. Phase One has involved focus groups with stakeholders including service users, representatives from advocacy groups and patient experience teams. This has resulted in a draft survey which is now being used to collect feedback as part of the testing and validation process, with over 300 responses received to date, including people from across all counties in Wales.
Read more about the project on our website here.

Workstream Showcase – Cardiff University Teaching

Cardiff University Research Fellow, Sue Peirce, describes some of CEDAR's teaching work:

Since 2012, CEDAR has been a collaboration between Cardiff University School of Engineering and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board. Over that time we have developed and led a 3rd year undergraduate module for the Medical Engineering programme. The Medical Device Evaluation module incorporates skills that are core to much of CEDAR's work and is based on our NICE Medical Technologies Guidance workstream: structured literature searching, clinical study design and critical appraisal, and estimating the comparative costs of healthcare. The aim is to provide these potential future medical engineers with the ability to think critically about medical technologies and to judge their value.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT
We speak to Researcher, Agatha Grove-Hills:

Tell us a bit about you and your role:
I joined CEDAR a few weeks ago as part of a redeployment scheme, hailing from Radiopharmacy in Medical Physics. I started working at UHW just after completing my Master's in Neuroimaging, and I was there for just over a year. At the moment I am helping out on a couple projects such as the HELPP study and helping to recruit Welsh speakers for Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) translation work.

What 3 words would you use to describe CEDAR?
Organised, Dedicated, Stand-up desks

What is something you're particularly proud of?
I taught myself how to read when I was a kid!

Choose a superpower.
Watch any sports game imaginable and instantly know all the rules.

What is a fact about you that people would be surprised by?
I grew up learning three languages: English, French and Mandarin (although the latter has now been replaced by Spanish).