



02/09/2011

## Briefing for Directors of Radiology and Radiology Service Managers

Dr                      and

Dear

The Cumbria and Lancashire Out of Hours Telestroke Service is going live on **XXXXXX**.

This will now mean that Thrombolysis for Acute Ischaemic Stroke can be offered to suitable patients 24/7 rather than the previous 9 to 5, Monday to Friday service. Thrombolysis is the only effective treatment for patients who have had just suffered a stroke but to be effective has to be delivered within a short time period after the initial symptoms. Current advice is this can be delivered within 4.5 hours after symptom onset.

A rota of 16 Stroke Consultants from the six participating Trusts: –

**Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**  
**East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust**  
**Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**  
**Southport and Ormskirk Foundation Trust**  
**University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust**  
**North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust**

The Consultants will provide out of hours clinical advice from their homes to eight hospital sites in Cumbria and Lancashire. This advice will be via a laptop in the clinician's home to a Telecart that will be based at the patient's bedside in A/E or in some cases the stroke ward.

Clinicians will be able to see and speak to patients and the local hospital staff who will be delivering patient care often from home. The clinician will also have access to CT head images on suspected stroke patients which will have been carried out by a local radiographer so that brain haemorrhage can be excluded. This access will be via a separate Burnbank Image Exchange Portal which has been setup for the Cumbria and Lancs Telestroke Network. Arrangements have been put in place with **XXXXXX** that out of hour CT head scan images from **XXXXXX** will be sent to this IEP as well as your local PACS system.

All the Stroke Consultants on the rota have received CT scan interpretation training (ASTRACAT). It is NOT envisaged that they will have to speak to a radiologist out of hours about these scans.

The funding to provide the laptops, equipment and IEP costs came from North West SHA Regional Innovations Fund monies. Virgin Media who are providing the equipment and managing the infrastructure are also providing a 24/7 helpdesk to ensure smooth running of the Telestroke network and the Telecarts. They have received tremendous support not only from local IT managers at each of the Trusts but also significantly from the Informatics Division of North West SHA in getting the IT setup.

The preparation for the launch of this new service would not have been possible without the wonderful input and support of clinical staff and non-clinical from A/E, Stroke Units and Radiology departments from all 6 Trusts involved. Lancashire and Cumbria Cardiac and Stroke Network have



**Cumbria and Lancashire Telestroke Network**

played a major role in securing funding and support from the various NHS Commissioners in Cumbria and Lancashire for this project. They have also underpinned not only training for delivery of the Telestroke Service but have also helped increased Stroke knowledge in general. Without their support, drive and enthusiasm this project would have never come to fruition.

North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust have acted as lead provider on behalf of all the Trust concerned and any queries around this briefing should be directed to \_\_\_\_\_, Telestroke Project Manager. \_\_\_\_\_ Extn \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_