

# Staff Bulletin

Wednesday July 27th 2011

**To:** All Staff  
**From:** , Director of Operations

## Telestroke launch

I am delighted to announce the launch of the Cumbria and Lancashire 'out of hours' Telestroke service, which is set to transform and improve the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients using new state of the art technology.

This innovative new service will go operational today, providing 24/7 Thrombolysis treatment to all eligible stroke patients in Cumbria and Lancashire.

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 and North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust, will deliver an 'out of hours' service, providing the best possible clinical advice using Telemedicine to local teams. Each Stroke Consultant will be linked by high speed broadband to a Telecart, which will be positioned at the patient's bedside in A&E or in some cases the Stroke Unit

Clinicians will be able to have a 'two-way' virtual consultation, enabling them to see and speak to patients via innovative teleconferencing equipment. They will also have access to CT images of the suspected stroke patients. These on-call clinicians will then be able to provide best possible advice to local hospital staff on the most appropriate treatment and subsequent care for that patient.

Virgin Media have been commissioned to provide broadband equipment and manage the network infrastructure, providing a 24/7 helpdesk to ensure smooth running of the Telestroke service.

Here at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Telecart will be located in the Stroke Unit and clinical colleagues are advised to consult the [Direct Admission of Stroke Patients to the Stroke Unit](#) policy for the correct procedures.

All Trust queries on Telestroke can be directed to Dr , Stroke Consultant (Ext: ) and , Specialist Stroke Nurse (Ext: )

The preparation for the launch of this new service would not have been possible without the dedication of staff from all Trusts involved. I'd particularly like to thank the Lancashire and Cumbria Cardiac and Stroke Network and both clinical staff and non-clinical staff from A&E, the Stroke Unit and IT and Radiology Departments within our Trust. Without their support, drive and enthusiasm this new service would have never come to fruition.