

HSJ PARTNERSHIP
AWARDS 2019



WINNER

Best Healthcare Provider Partnership

Roche Diagnostics and Oxford AHSN
Changing Clinical Practice

Pregnant women who develop hypertension are often hospitalised for a long period while doctors try to work out if they have pre-eclampsia, a serious condition which can go on endanger them and their babies.

This hospitalisation can cause them unnecessary anxiety and disruption to their normal life, and can mean hospital beds are not available to other patients. But identifying the women who will then develop pre-eclampsia has been difficult.

Roche Diagnostics worked with the Oxford AHSN and the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford to introduce a new test – the Roche Elecsys sFlt-1/PIGD ratio test - along with standard clinical practice to identify women who would not develop pre-eclampsia within a week. This allowed them to be sent home and resources to be concentrated on those who needed monitoring. This is allowing women attending three hospitals to be sent home with 99.3 per cent accuracy; in the past 70 per cent of those admitted were eventually told they would not develop pre-eclampsia but faced a worrying wait in hospital before this was clear.

The challenge in adopting this across the hospitals within the Oxford AHSN has been twofold – getting buy in from clinicians and building a case for funding of the test. The lack of reimbursement for diagnostic tests is a major financial barrier for trusts

The initial collaboration with the John Radcliffe Hospital has allowed evidence to be built to overcome much of this resistance. A local randomised control trial is providing evidence to influence clinical practice: validated clinical and health economic evidence from this will shortly be published and Roche Diagnostics has facilitated discussions between clinicians. Working as a partnership allowed new conversations between clinicians, midwives, laboratory heads and finance directors.

Roche Diagnostics has also worked with individual hospitals to build a bespoke business case for the adoption of the test. This has now spread beyond the Oxford AHSN area; since the John Radcliffe went live with the test in October 2018, four hospitals in the Oxford network and beyond have adopted the test. Roche Diagnostics is working with two other AHSN networks to develop business cases which could lead to adoption shortly. Ten other hospitals are at various stages of adoption. The Oxford AHSN collaboration has produced various tools to add adoption, including clinical education plans for all stakeholders.

What has been achieved was down to partnership working between different stakeholders. The Oxford AHSN wanted to improve maternity services and used NICE evidence to look for potential ways of doing so – which led them to the Roche test. Project lead Julie Hart acted as a catalyst to unite stakeholders across the network, and, together with consultant obstetrician Dr Manu Vatish at the John Radcliffe, the AHSN was able to gain the trust and support of clinicians.

Judges' comments: "This project showed high levels of innovation and sophistication. This evidence based project delivered demonstrable improvements in patient experience."