

Baxter Wins All Wales Contract for ICNet Clinical Surveillance Software

I|C|NET



Left to right – Christine Jeffrey, Specialist Matron Infection Prevention; Katherine Chapple, Infection Prevention Nurse; Tracey Cooper, Assistant Director of Nursing Infection Prevention; Katie Houghton, Head of ICNet Operations; Debbie Forsyth, ICNet Account Development Lead

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Baxter has been awarded the contract for ICNet clinical surveillance software to provide an all Wales infection case management and surveillance solution. ICNet Infection Prevention will be networked across all NHS Wales Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) services to help clinicians monitor healthcare-associated infections (HCAIs) in near-real time. The national solution will provide IPC staff with a comprehensive overview of a patient's infection history and promote standardisation of the IPC workflow to optimise care in Wales. In addition to the case management technology for Health Boards, Baxter will deploy ICNet Enterprise Monitor to provide a second tier information repository and reporting system which will give Public Health Wales a near-real time national picture of the HCAI position for Wales.

“This new system will result in improved care and management of patients”

The reduction of HCAIs has been an area of focus for the Welsh Government following an outbreak of *C. difficile* infection at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCU) in 2013 and a subsequent review prepared by Public Health Wales which looked at various arrangements and protocols that needed to be put in place to ensure an improved service for the future. BCU implemented ICNet Infection Prevention in June 2014 as part of an internal programme to reduce the number of avoidable infections and since then the Health Board has

seen a continued reduction in the number of cases of both *C. difficile* infection and MRSA bacteraemia.

ICNet software enables comprehensive clinical surveillance supporting the management of the patient through alerting IPC staff immediately an HCAI related case is identified. Ensuring response measures are actioned at the earliest opportunity helps clinicians reduce the risk of the infection spreading to other patients or staff in the hospital or in a community setting. In the event of an outbreak, ICNet software helps staff optimise their workflow thus reducing time spent manually searching records and reviewing historic cases enabling more time caring for patients. ICNet reports on complex antimicrobial susceptibility at varied patient group and geographic levels enabling patterns to be identified and providing the evidence necessary for the development of guidance for appropriate antibiotic use underpinning the Antimicrobial Resistance Programme in Wales.

The investment into ICNet has been funded from the Efficiency Through Technology Fund by the Welsh Government. Vaughan Gething, Cabinet Minister for Health, Well-being and Sport recently made a visit to Ysbyty Glan Clwyd, when he was Deputy Health Minister, to see some of the infection prevention and control work undertaken by the hospital, including a demonstration of the ICNet system in action. In a press release issued by the Welsh Government (March 2016) announcing the investment, Dr Marion Lyons, Director of Health Protection for Public Health Wales, said: “We are pleased to support the roll-out of ICNet across Wales. This new system will result in improved care and management of patients with healthcare associated infections

in hospitals in Wales. It will also improve prevention and management of outbreaks of these types of infections. The system will also help Public Health Wales to get a national picture of rates of healthcare associated infections across Wales, and assist us as we work with our partners across the NHS to ensure people are safe, receive appropriate good quality care, and have the most positive experience possible of healthcare in Wales.”



Left to right – Tracey Cooper, Assistant Director of Nursing - Infection Prevention; Vaughan Gething, Cabinet Minister for Health, Well-being and Sport; Katie Houghton, Head of ICNet Operations.

Katie Houghton, Head of ICNet Operations for Baxter commented: “We are keenly aware of the need for healthcare providers to have the necessary tools to support the prevention and control of healthcare associated infections and also ensure antibiotics are a sustainable and effective resource for infection prevention teams. We have worked for many years supporting infection prevention teams globally and we see the adoption of ICNet surveillance technology as a key step in supporting the challenges within infection prevention.”