



Newcastle North and East Commissioning Group Patient Newsletter

PBC – Practice Based Commissioning

What is PBC?

Practice Based Commissioning is where GP practices come together to form larger groups to discuss the pathways and services available to the patients that they treat.

Who are the Newcastle North and East Commissioning Group?

NNECG consists of 15 practices in the North and East of Newcastle. Each practice sends a GP and the Practice Manager to quarterly meetings where patient services and pathways are discussed and reviewed. A smaller, nominated group consisting of GPs, Practice Managers and representatives from NHS North of Tyne meet once a month to further develop the ideas and look at issues that are brought up at the larger meetings.

Turn over for a map of where the practices in the NNECG are.

What do we do?

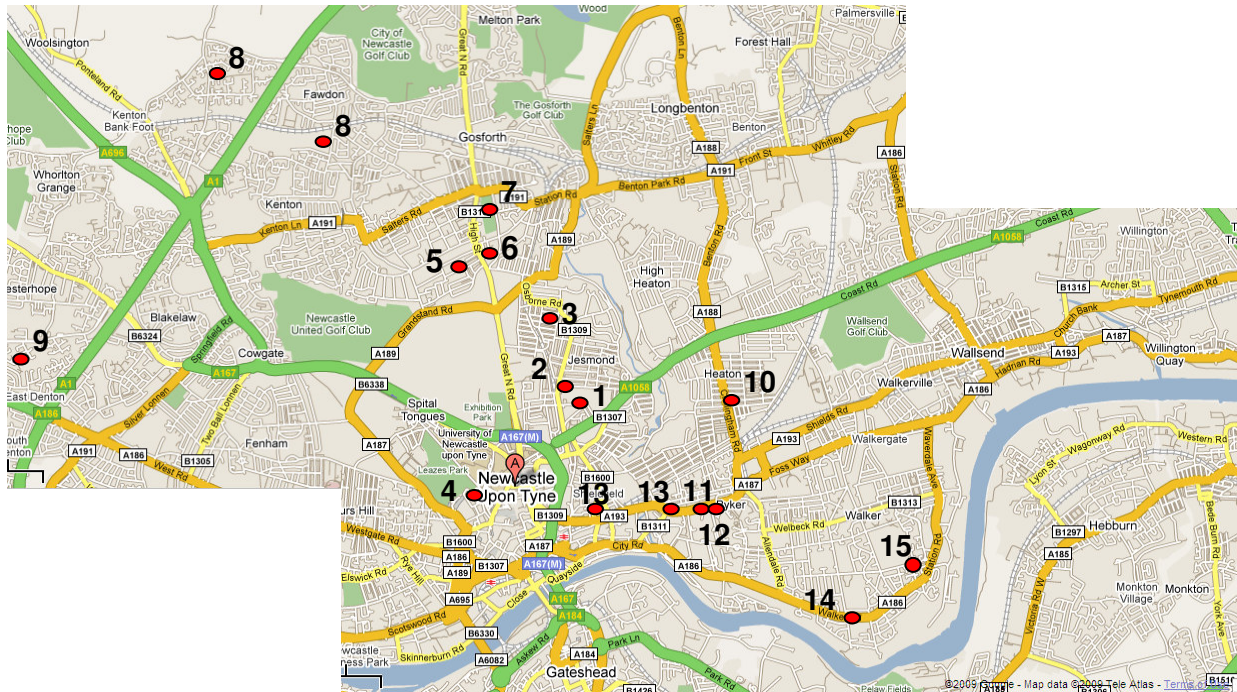
PBC was envisaged as a way to provide choice within the services and treatments offered to patients. Many services and treatment pathways have options where the patient can attend a clinic on a hospital site or at a site closer to the patient's home. PBC aims to identify other such areas and work out ways to bring suitable services out of hospital sites and closer to home.

One such service is the IMATT service which is run by Connect Physical Health. This service allows patients to have clinical assessment and triage of musculoskeletal problems at one of a range of venues across the city. Where possible, the patient will be treated by Connect staff but, if necessary, the patient will be referred onwards to the specialist hospital units.

Another PBC initiative is to look at the reasons patients attend hospital and devise ways to identify patients before they require hospital treatments.

For example, we have a specialist GP searching for patients at risk of developing Osteoporosis as they get older. Potential sufferers are identified, offered a diagnostic scan, and, where appropriate, are given simple medication to help protect their bones weakening as they age.

Where are the NNECG practices?



- 1 – Avenue Medical Practice
- 2 – Holly Medical Group
- 3 – The Surgery – Osborne Road
- 4 – Newcastle Medical Centre
- 5 – Elmfield Health Group
- 6 – The Grove Medical Group
- 7 – Gosforth Memorial Medical Centre

- 8 – Park Medical Group
- 9 – Denton Park Medical Group
- 10 – Biddlestone Health Group
- 11 – Heaton Road Medical Centre
- 12 – 42 Heaton Road
- 13 – Thornfield Medical Group
- 14 – St Anthony's Health Centre
- 15 – Walker Medical Group

How does PBC affect me?

PBC may not directly affect your time as a patient but you may indirectly affect PBC. Your practice will be looking at where patients are sent, how quickly they are seen and what the outcome of that visit was. This information can be used to build up a bigger picture of overall patient experience and alert GPs to where a pathway works efficiently or show where there are problems accessing some services.

Talk to us

You can directly influence PBC by telling us about your experiences as a patient, both good and bad. We can't promise to solve individual problems but emerging patterns will warrant further investigations

As a group we have a number of interests and we need direct patient experience. Keep an eye out for questionnaires on COPD, alcohol services, rheumatology services and the new Osteoporosis identification service.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact your Practice Manager.