



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

*South Inner City of Dublin
Partnership in Primary Care*



SICP

INFORMATION BOOKLET

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The South Inner City Partnership has been in operation for over five years, it was established to fill an anticipated service need following the closure of the Adelaide, Meath & National Children's Hospitals Group and to enhance the delivery of primary care within the South Inner City area. This initiative has allowed for a patient centred approach to service delivery and relationships have been developed with local hospitals, in particular St James and the Coombe Women's Hospital and with local community service providers. At present 30 practices participate in SICP (57 GPs). The partnership area covers parts of Dublin 2, 4, 6 and 8. Within the SICP the following initiatives have been established:

Wound Clinic

A direct access clinic provided for GPs, this service allows for the prompt assessment and treatment of all types of acute and chronic wounds. As part of the treatment programme, all patients attending the clinic with a leg ulcer will have Doppler studies performed by the Clinical Nurse Specialist to determine aetiology of the leg ulcer. Patients treatments are carried out by a Clinical Nurse Specialist in accordance to the agreed clinical guidelines.

Shared Care Diabetes Programme

A diabetes shared care programme has been in operation in the South Inner City Partnership since 2000. The purpose of this programme is to ensure that people with Type 2 diabetes in the South Inner City receive care that is of a high quality in terms of clinical effectiveness, accessibility and convenience for patients.

Podiatry

A direct access clinic providing podiatric care for patients of GPs participating in the Shared Care Diabetes Programme. Patients attending this Podiatry Service are all initially assessed, given return appointments for regular treatment, referred to a specialist where necessary (ulcer care) and also receive patient education. Clinics are held every Wednesday by appointment only.

Dietetic Service

A direct access clinic, this service incorporates general dietetics, secondary prevention – cardiovascular disease and shared care diabetes clinics. Clinics work on an appointment based system.

Continence Promotion Clinic

A direct access clinic for children over 7 and adults run in collaboration with the Continence Promotion Unit. Patients referred to this clinic are properly assessed according to an established protocol and are involved in the choice of their treatment, receiving an explicit pro-active documented care plan with a review date. This clinic is held on the last Friday of every month.

Smoking Cessation

This clinic offers a one to one, intensive, client-centred approach to smoking cessation. It provides patients with behavioural support and education regarding various strategies for quitting to include Nicotine Replacement therapy and Bupropion (Zyban). Clinics are run in collaboration with the Tobacco Control Services of the Health Promotion Unit.

Community Anti-Coagulation Clinics

Community Anti-Coagulation Clinics have been set-up in 5 GP practices. A Warfarin Liaison Nurse is employed by the SICP for these sessions. Clinics operate as a “one stop shop” where patients have their INR checked, warfarin prescribed and their general knowledge and compliance checked in one visit. This service operates on an inter-referral basis with the clinics operating in the five practices accepting referrals from the other GPs in the SICP. It adheres to a strict protocol to allow a common standard of care to be provided in each clinic.

Physiotherapy

A full time physiotherapist is employed to provide a comprehensive community based out-patients service to people attending SICP GPs. This service is located in Baggot Street Community Hospital, 18 Upper Baggot, Dublin 2. Patients must be referred to this service by their GP.

Radiology

A direct access X-Ray service is available to SICP GPs for “cold X-rays” in Baggot Street Hospital. Designated time slots are available each week and results are received without delay, thereby improving the service received by the patient. Patients are seen by appointment only and referrals will not be accepted for skull X-rays or suspected fractures.

Phlebotomy Transport Service

To enhance the service provided by GPs in SICP, a transport system was set up, collecting laboratory samples from and returning results on a daily basis to participating practices. This service complies with UN Legislation on the Transportation & Packaging of Dangerous Goods.

Women's Health

The SICP & Coombe Women's Hospital have been working together to develop Women's Health Protocols aimed at improving the standard of care provided to women in the area. An education programme has been developed for participating practices. A direct referral system to the Transvaginal Ultrasound in the Coombe has been in operation since 1999, whereby practices can refer women directly to the service and receive results on the same day.

IT

The primary Care eTeam Project is an unique initiative which demonstrates genuine partnership and collaboration between the constituent partners SICP, St James Hospital, EHSS, HSE SW and Sth Inner City Community Nursing Services. This project supports electronic communications within teams and hospital services and is currently promoting the development of services in the following area of eHealth:

- Electronic referrals from St James Hospital to Community Nursing Services
- Electronic referrals from GPs to Community Nursing Services.
- Secure email referrals from GPs to St James Hospital and SICP Clinical Services.
- Provision of managed email services for members of the Primary Care Team i.e. (SICP GP Practices, Community Nursing Services and SICP Clinical Services).
- Issuing of Digital Certificates from EHSS to users of the eTeam services.
- A pilot project providing hardware support for two SICP GPs.
- Development of a St James Hospital GP Extranet for radiology results, discharge summaries, OPD appointment information and Lab results.