## **VTE AWARD**

Deep vein thrombosis (DVT) pathway leading to improved timely diagnosis of thrombosis

## NORTHAMPTON GENERAL HOSPITAL

University Hospitals of Northamptonshire – Northampton General Hospital

Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) Scanning by nurses – an innovative approach

Combined with the anticoagulation service, this is a nurseled service overseen by a Consultant Haematologist.

Historically, the scanning service offered five scans per day with patients waiting up to seven days, In 2016, a business plan was agreed with the anticoagulation service to purchase an ultrasound machine and train some of the nursing staff to undertake DVT ultrasound scanning. The introduction of nurse sonography has given us complete control of our service.

The DVT service has evolved and we now offer a same day scanning service to GPs, Same Day Emergency Care, Accident & Emergency, Oncology, and more recently, to Obstetric & Gynaecological departments.

The implemented service now offers a four-hour referral time with data audited monthly to monitor:

- Number of referrals per month.
- Source of referrals.
- Number of scans.
- Number of patients not requiring scanning.
- Wells scores.
- D-dimer results.
- If the patient was commenced on interim anticoagulation prior to attending DVT clinic.
- Result of scans.
- If positive, if the clot above or below the knee.
- Number of rescans with outcome.

Patient feedback is gathered via a questionnaire and looks at:

- How long between referral and their appointment with us.
- How long did they wait to be seen once in clinic.
- Did they receive an information leaflet (about what would happen at their appointment).
- Were all the steps explained.
- Were they satisfied with the outcome of the appointment.
- Were all questions answered sufficiently.
- Rate their experience on a 1-10 scale.
- Any suggestions of improvement to service.

To date, data consistently evidences key performance targets are being met across:

- Staying within departmental budget.
- Cost savings.
- Consistent 95% specificity and sensitivity target of DVT ultrasound.
- Reduction in patients commenced on interim anticoagulation prior to scanning
- Reduction in patients having unnecessary scans.
- Provision of 16 patient assessment/scan slots per day.
- Identification of referrers not using the same day service.
- Time from referral to scan.
- Safety.
- Training and development.
- Positive patient feedback.
- No waiting list.

Patients clearly benefit by being seen in a 'one stop shop'. They do not need to worry about getting to a different department for their scan or multiple appointments.