



Collaborative Working Project Executive Summary

Project title	A collaborative working agreement between Sanofi and Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, University Hospital of Wales (UHW), to implement a designated GvHD Nurse Specialist to improve outcomes and experience of patients undergoing treatment in South Wales
Partner organisation/s	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, University Hospital of Wales (UHW), Heath Park, Cardiff, CF14 4XW
Project rationale	<p>The aim of the project is to improve patient outcomes and experiences when undergoing treatment within the BMT service in the University Hospital of Wales.</p> <p>As part of their ongoing commitment to high quality, world leading care the service has recently launched a specific GvHD treatment clinic. This is in response to approximately 30-40% of allogeneic stem cell transplants leading to chronic GvHD (1,592 patients, 2007-2012 cohort)¹. The aim of this new clinic is to optimise and streamline treatment and services for patients with this condition. The Clinic is currently staffed by Consultant Team, Physiotherapist and BMT Nurses.</p> <p>Gap analysis conducted by Dr Wilson and Dr Kempshall through discussions with members of the BMT clinic has identified an opportunity to maximise the impact of this new service through employment of a dedicated GvHD Nurse Specialist. Their task will be to improve the co-ordination of care for patients with chronic Graft versus host disease (CGvHD) and provide increased educational resource for patients to support their care.</p> <p>A new GvHD Specialist Nurse would be central to coordinate the clinic, act as a central point of contact for patients and their families, conduct additional and much needed pulmonary function testing and review patient progress. This would serve to improve the quality of work within the clinic in addition to free up associated HCP capacity in addition to improve patient outcomes.</p> <p>1. gvhd-haematopoietic-stem-cell.pdf (england.nhs.uk)</p>
Project period	Q1 2024 – Q2 2025
Project objectives	<p>The project aims to deliver the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map the current GvHD patient pathway to identify any opportunities for improvement. • Implement a GvHD Specialist Nurse role to co-ordinate and improve the treatment of patients with GvHD

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- Evaluate the outputs and outcomes of the Specialist Nurse role to inform the production of a business case to secure ongoing funding for the post through Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (WHSSC)

The collaborative working project will deliver the following benefits for Patients, the NHS and Sanofi:

Patients:

- Provision of a Specialist Nurse to act as a central point of contact for patients with GvHD.
- Improvement in co-ordination of care and patient experience.
- Implementation of regular pulmonary function testing to be undertaken by the Specialist Nurse to identify at an earlier stage decline in patient pulmonary function which will support improved access to treatment.
- Streamlined care ensuring more effective transit through the BMT service.

NHS:

- Optimise the service offerings to patients provided through the newly developed GvHD clinic.
- Provide enhanced patient and staff educational input.
- Provide regular review of patients care and symptoms allowing faster identification of therapeutic issues and improving treatment optimisation.
- Provide routine 3 monthly pulmonary testing (currently not offered) – allowing clinicians to better target treatment interventions.
- Free up Consultant time through Nurse Led follow-up clinic releasing Consultant capacity to see other patients.

Sanofi:

- Greater clarity of the pressure points and priorities for a national specialist Bone Marrow Transplant Centre, enabling us to tailor our offerings in the future.
- Greater clarity of the problems surrounding the service's ability to deliver and tailor service to patient needs and provide learning to improve Sanofi's ability to support other BMT services within the UK.
- Improved corporate reputation within Cardiff and Vale UHB - by supporting them to improve the quality of care for patients.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As Sanofi produce medicines in this disease area - if overall patient care is optimised there may be an increase in the usage of these products in line with national and local guidelines. A sharable protocol for the implementation of pulmonary function testing to share with other trusts. <p>In order to deliver on these objectives resources will be pooled between the parties of estimated value of £46,000</p>
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