Utilisation of cardiac imaging in ischaemic heart disease: producing a combined cardiac imaging request form to streamline the referral pathway

Dr Anvesha Singh (Associate Professor/ Honorary Consultant Cardiologist, University of Leicester and University Hospitals of Leicester, Leicester, UK)

**THE PROBLEM**

NICE guidelines (2016) recommend the use of various cardiac imaging tests in assessing patients with chest pain, depending on local expertise and patient risk profile.

**Multiple systems for Cardiac Imaging referral and booking locally:**

- **Referral system:** Radiology paper and electronic (ICE) form for CT/MRI, Nuclear green paper and electronic (ICE) form for MPS and no form for DSE (e-mail/letter referral to 3 Consultants!)
- **Booking system:** CT/MRI managed by Radiology (CRiSS system), MPS managed by Nuclear department (via CRiSS) and DSE managed by 3 separate secretaries using individual A4 folders!
- **Reporting system:** CT/MRI/MPS reports issued on CRiSS/ICE, DSE reports dictated as letters by operator.

**Objective:** To assess the local utilisation of the various imaging tests via a snapshot audit of waiting times for each test.

**Proposed pathway for appropriate test**

<table>
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<th>Age &lt; 70 years</th>
<th>Age ≥ 70 years</th>
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| **CTCA**
- eGFR > 30
- No known significant coronary calcification. |
| **Stress CMR**
- Poor echo window
- Aortic disease
- Suspected cardiomyopathy, eGFR < 30. |
| **DSE**
- Valve disease (LV/EF AS), eGFR < 30.
- CI to CMR
- Severe asthma |
| **MPS**
- eGFR < 30
- CI to CMR/ poor echo window |

**Objective:** To produce a combined cardiac imaging referral form, and introduce new DSE form, to streamline the referral process, allow easier auditing in the future and allow re-direction to an alternative test by the Vetting Clinician.

**THE AUDIT**

**THE QIP**

**Objective:** To produce a combined cardiac imaging referral form, and introduce new DSE form, to streamline the referral process, allow easier auditing in the future and allow re-direction to an alternative test by the Vetting Clinician.

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**Project Timeline**

Paper form was quick to implement, but challenging implementation of electronic form due to multiple barriers encountered. (multiple stakeholders to engage, IT and resistance to change)

- **04/05/2018** • IT work request submitted
- **29/11/2018** • Demo form created but last contact by IT 3 months ago
- **30/08/2018** • 1st contacted by Applications Specialist (A)
- **05/12/2018** • Contacted by Radiology Imaging System Co-Ordinator (B)
- **08/12/2018** • 8 contacted A for update.
- **26/06/2019** • Form went LIVE on ICE thanks to B!!!