

Executive Summary

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust and UCB Pharma Limited, Patient identification in fracture liaison services: supporting digital solutions with NHS clinical teams

Joint Working Project Executive Summary

This summary has been written by UCB Pharma Ltd with consultation and approval from the Joint project working team.

The Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust and UCB Pharma Ltd, are embarking on a joint working project to optimise the number of fracture patients identified to Fracture Liaison Services (FLS), by utilising an electronic patient management digital solution. The parties have agreed that the project should be undertaken in accordance with the principles and guidance relating to joint working between the NHS and the pharmaceutical industry.

Osteoporosis, literally “porous bone,” is a disease characterised by weak bone. It is a major public health problem, affecting hundreds of millions of people worldwide, predominantly postmenopausal women. The main clinical consequence of the disease is bone fractures. In the UK in 2019 there were 527,000 new fragility fractures, 1,444 per day and 60 fractures an hour; by 2034 this is predicted to rise to 665,000 new fragility fractures per year. The cost of osteoporotic fractures in the UK accounted for approximately 2.4% of healthcare spending (i.e., £4.75 billion out of £196.18 billion in 2019). These numbers indicate a substantial impact of fragility fractures on the healthcare budget¹

In addition to pain and disability, some fractures are associated with premature mortality. ¹The impact of osteoporosis on individuals can be devastating. Fragility fractures can lead to loss of independence, mobility, and the capacity to carry out everyday tasks.²

The project's aim is to partner with UCB's digital solution provider to enable access to a patient management system and make it available to NHS FLS services. UCB agrees to provide the Trust with access to a digital FLS pathway solution, including all implementation of the module into existing systems and any follow-up optimisation needed. The FLS module shall be provided to UCB by UCB's third party service provider.

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust are adopting the FLS module to add to a suite of digital solutions that are existing or are to be planned to be implemented within their clinical systems. The primary objective of the project is to bring benefits to patients; the FLS service and improve patient outcomes through targeted identification of an at-risk population, support high quality assessment and management whilst adding aggregated patient data to nationally registered data set. The resource commitments from the parties were similar.

The project commences in October 2023 and is a 24-month commitment to the hospital Trust.

Intended benefit:

For the patient	Identification of those patients who have fractured and identified to services to assess for future fracture nationally is currently 25.9% ³ <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More patients identified for assessment• Increased number of and timely patient assessments completed• Increased number of patients treated appropriately based on local, or national guidance• Increased number of patients follow ups at 4 and 12 months, these are national care standards
For the NHS	The financial and resource support given in this project gives the current Fracture Liaison service an opportunity to demonstrate: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased number of patients identified and assessed• Workforce efficiencies of FLS team• Improved data collection and input into national crown audit• Improved patient outcomes and identify unmet need

For UCB	<p>Providing financial and resource support to the NHS Trusts in this project helps UCB understand further fragility fracture patient population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understanding of the challenges faced by the NHS in delivering high-quality patient services and care • Potential expansion of the relevant and eligible patient population as a result of the activity • It is expected to see an increase in the use of anti-osteoporotic medication in line with local and national guidelines and standards of care
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It is anticipated that a report on the outcomes from this joint working project will be published September 2024

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2. Royal Osteoporosis Society. APPG on osteoporosis and bone health. Available at: [appg-on-osteoporosis-and-bone-health-fls-inquiry-inquiry-report-2021.pdf \(windows.net\)](#) [accessed on 05.06.2023]
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