NHS Trusts continue to favour Baxter's ICNET next-generation infection surveillance software

Back row (L-R): Tammy Campbell (IP Senior CSW - Walsall), Joanne Ellison (Head of IP and TB services - Walsall), Louise Fox (Lead IP Nurse - Walsall), Emma Spooner (IP Nurse - RWT), Adam Bernard (IP Data Analyst - RWT), Gina Day (IP Nurse - RWT) and Matt Reid (Infection Prevention Nurse Manager - RWT)
Front row (L-R): Teresa Richards (IP Senior CSW - Walsall), Bati Vutabwarova (ICNET Account Manager), Claire Hayward (Senior IP Nurse - RWT) and Bal Boparai (IP Risk Manager - Walsall)

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust are the first healthcare organisations to implement the Tag Sharing functionality of **ICNET** Infection Prevention, an infection case management and clinical decision support surveillance system. Tags attached to a patient record alert clinical teams that a patient might pose a threat of cross-infection. For example, a patient who has had a previous positive test for Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) at

> "This new functionality immediately identifies such a patient as a possible risk of cross-infection"

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust may be admitted to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust for an unrelated condition. The system generates an instant alert about the prior MRSA result, adding a critical factor to decisions on treatment and infection control procedures.

ICNET Infection Prevention is also used at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust for surgical cases. Tag sharing allows one of the Trusts to evaluate whether a newly presented patient who has undergone surgery recently in the other facility

has a surgical site infection and needs to be admitted. (Emergency readmissions within 30 days are a clinical indicator used by the NHS to evaluate the quality of care provided by Trusts.)

Only the tag detail and basic patient demographics are shared; specific clinical information for previous hospital stays are kept on a need-to-know basis, in keeping with NHS Code of Practice for patient confidentiality.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust are just seven miles apart; patient movements between the two West Midlands facilities occur frequently due to emergency treatment, a clinical referral or patient preference.

"The two Trusts agreed that it would be beneficial to reduce the risk of unknown historically infected patients entering their facilities by importing tags generated by **ICNET** at the other facility, so that their local clinical record included the most comprehensive set of tags possible," said Louise Whitehead, Head of **ICNET** Commercial EMEA for Baxter Healthcare.

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust have been **ICNET** customers since March 2007 and March 2008 respectively. Both have been key sites for trialling iterations of the infection surveillance software.

"These Trusts are among our earliest customers, so it is only fitting that they are the first to utilise the Tag Sharing functionality," Whitehead added. "Through their experiences we hope to have many other customers adopt Tag Sharing."

The benefits of the functionality include:

- Pro-active infection surveillance, as infection control nurses are notified immediately upon admission if the patient has previously been identified with an infectious agent.
- Time savings, as nurses no longer need to track down critical information or patient history if they confirm they have previously been treated at the neighbouring hospital.
- Specificity of clinical data; if one hospital needs to call the other to obtain further information, more meaningful communication can take place.
- Flexibility, as sites can pick and choose what tags they would like to come over.
- Less time wasted, as expiration dates on tags means staff only see relevant and up-to-date information.

"Both Trusts know the benefit of having the earliest possible warning when a patient arrives at the hospital who poses an infection risk," said Matthew Reid, Infection Prevention Nurse Manager, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Louise Fox, Lead Infection Prevention and Control Nurse, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust. "This new functionality immediately identifies such a patient as a possible risk of cross-infection, without compromising the confidentiality of their medical records. This system facilitates the appropriate infection prevention actions to be taken in the receiving healthcare environment and enables prompt communication between the infection prevention teams at the two organisations."

About Walsall

Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust provides the full range of inpatient and outpatient services at the Manor Hospital, which has state-of-the-art operating theatres, treatment areas and equipment. Walsall also provides community health services at some 60 sites, including health and surgery centres.

About Royal Wolverhampton

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is one of the largest acute and community providers in the West Midlands, with three hospitals, including the acute care centre New Cross, rehabilitation facility West Park and the Cannock Chase surgery and specialty hospital. As the second largest employer in Wolverhampton, the Trust employs more than 8,000 staff.

About ICNET

ICNET Infection Prevention is an infection case management and clinical decision support surveillance system that facilitates real time reconciliation of data from existing clinical information systems, monitoring relevant data and correlating patients' specific conditions and treatments. It also interfaces with theatre management systems, providing full automation of surgical site infection surveillance and an electronic upload to numerous national surveillance systems. **ICNET** is used by over 40% of all UK NHS Trusts and Health Boards. **ICNET** is a wholly owned subsidiary of Baxter Healthcare Ltd.

Walsall patient record. The tag indicates that the patient has had a case of *C. difficile* at Wolverhampton.

Wolverhampton Tag Alert. This shows a patient tagged by Walsall has now come to Wolverhampton