Patient records to go electronic at WVT

It’s going to get a whole lot easier for doctors, nurses and consultants at Wye Valley NHS Trust to keep an eye on their patients’ medical records.

Hospital bosses reached a landmark moment when they signed a contract with pioneering software specialist IMS MAXIMS to implement a system which involves patients’ records being held electronically.

Currently, staff members have to rely on making sure they have paper copies of patients’ records which have to be accessed manually and carried around the hospital site by hand.

Once operational, the new system will allow medical records to be accessed via computer from all buildings out of which the Trust operates.

“Clinicians from across the Trust will be able to access relevant and appropriate information within a single electronic patient record, at the point-of-care, to help them make more informed decisions on the diagnosis and treatment of a patient,” said Simon Lind, the project manager at the Trust.

Dr Jake Burdsall, consultant lead for IT at the Trust, added: “To have visibility of a patient’s record, especially in emergency situations, is fundamental for improving care.”

“You can’t underestimate the importance of having clinical information, be it past attendances, episodes or diagnostic results, to help make immediate and future decisions on a patient’s care.”

The implementation of the electronic patient record system (EPR) will replace the current Patient Administration Systems (PAS) by the end of next year.

During this period the Trust will work closely with IMS MAXIMS to implement the openMAXIMS EPR software to support the creation of accurate, accessible and integrated care records across its acute and community hospitals. The system will eventually integrate across multiple care settings, including social and primary care.

By reducing its dependency on paper notes, the Trust is working towards the national ambition within NHS England’s ‘Five Year Forward View’ to ensure electronic health records are fully interoperable and supporting health secretary Jeremy Hunt’s challenge for the NHS to be paperless by 2018.

Shane Tickell, CEO of IMS MAXIMS, said: “This is yet another significant step in the adoption of open source technology within healthcare. At a time when the NHS is looking to improve patient outcomes whilst becoming a more efficient service, Wye Valley NHS Trust has taken the very considered and astute decision when selecting its approach to clinical technology.

Wye Valley NHS Trust will have software that meets the needs of clinicians and is flexible in its implementation, helping to save and manage precious hospital resources more effectively.”
Herefordshire’s health service provider

Ends

Pictured signing the contract are Wye Valley NHS Trust chief executive Richard Beeken, left, with Shane Tickell, chief executive officer of IMS MAXIMS.

About Wye Valley NHS Trust
Wye Valley NHS Trust was established on 1 April 2011. The trust provides community care and hospital care to a population of just over 180,000 people in Herefordshire and a population of more than 40,000 people in mid-Powys, Wales. The trust exists to improve the wellbeing, independence and health of the people it serves. It is the leading provider of health care in Herefordshire. With an estimated annual turnover of around £160 million, the trust employs around 2,700 plus staff.

About IMS MAXIMS
IMS MAXIMS is an electronic patient record provider working towards better, safer patient care. Specialists in developing clinical and administrative software solutions for healthcare providers, IMS MAXIMS currently supports more than 150 organisations, 11 million patient records in the UK, and 1.9 million patient records in Ireland, approximately 50% of the population, as well as 20,000 users of IMS MAXIMS products.

Available as proprietary or open source software, MAXIMS is at the heart of the clinical and administrative life of everything from large UK and Irish hospitals, to small specialist independent clinics. It gives patient data to clinicians in exactly the format they need, and allows it to be shared with colleagues and updated in real-time. MAXIMS suits any clinical specialism and is excellent for order communications and reporting. Medical and administrative records can be kept fully up to date, with the minimum of effort. MAXIMS is web-based so there is no need to install software on computers or invest in expensive extra hardware. Follow IMS MAXIMS on Twitter

About openMAXIMS
Electronic patient record (EPR) provider IMS MAXIMS released the open source code for its full MAXIMS suite, including its electronic patient record and patient administration system (PAS) free of charge to the NHS in June 2014. Earlier this year, IMS MAXIMS was named the only open source EPR and PAS supplier in a ‘catalogue’ designed to support NHS England’s technology fund two, officially called the Integrated Digital Care Fund.