

EARLI Project
Identifying older people
at risk of unplanned
hospital admission

EARLI PROJECT

(Emergency Admission Risk Likelihood Index)

Rollout of the EARLI questionnaire to GP practices in Brent



Older people can be provided with appropriate support at home

**Special points
of interest:**

- Total of 47 GP Practices across Brent have now been visited
- 39 Practices have agreed to use the EARLI questionnaire
- Practice Visits are continuing – further appointments confirmed
- Support Links have been established
- Contact Lily Lawson on 07941272418
Lily.Lawson@brentpct.nhs.net

You will hopefully remember receiving information on the EARLI questionnaire by email—around the beginning of December 2007.

This simple questionnaire has been researched and developed by GPs and shown to identify older people (over 75) at risk of unplanned hospital admission.

It is sent to the patient at home for completion and when scored on return to the practice – can highlight those most in need of review or additional services to ensure appropriate care at home. This of course benefits both the patient and the practice in the short and long term.

The EARLI Project has been visiting GP practices throughout Brent since mid December 2007—and it now seems like a good time to update on current progress.

While we have had the winter holiday in between – a total of 47 practices, in all clusters, have been actively visited by Lily Lawson EARLI Project Manager.

39 practices are currently pursuing use of the questionnaire and a further 8 are looking at the benefits to their future workplan. The target is to continue visits and support to practices in the coming weeks. **Please contact Lily if you need help – on 07941272418**

The EARLI Questionnaire

Researched and developed by GPs- shown to highlight risk and focus resources

GPwSI for Older People

In this issue:

- Rollout of EARLI **1**
- Support Services **2**
- Support checklist **3**
- Further Progress **4**
on support

Support Services for identified older people at risk

Clearly, once the high risk group is identified—appropriate care planning is essential to successful well being for the patient at home. Practices are tackling this in line with their own usual processes—some patients are known and their high risk is understandable—others may require additional medical input via medication, or referral to specialist nursing services—or it may be that low level social care needs are indicated and referral to ICCS (Integrated Care Coordination Service) is the best course of action.

ICCS has links to Social Services who are also aware of EARLI. Social Services can assist with appropriate care packages to meet higher level needs in the critical/substantial range.

Helpful checklist for care planning—on page 2


Please write the EARLI score on each referral you make - to help us evaluate the support provided and the effectiveness of the project.

EARLI PROJECT

Contact: Lily Lawson
Tel: 07941272418
E-mail: Lily.Lawson@brentpct.nhs.uk



Brent Partnership for Older People Projects

Brent 
Teaching Primary Care Trust

**Contact Lily Lawson
For information and
support**

Support Checklist

For Patients with a high EARLI score (over 15)

Check if recently seen by the Practice

(and decide if emergency admissions are appropriate or need referral)

Review medical issues — medication / specialist nursing needs / rehab needs

Review social issues — low level needs / more complex needs

Have you considered?

Practice Nurse	District Nurses (local links)	Specialist Nurses	Community Matrons
	Brent Rehab Service	Integrated Care Coordination Service ICCS	Social Services

Contact

SINGLE POINT of ACCESS

SPA Tel 0208 438 7200 Fax 0208 438 7201

**ICCS can co-ordinate services required—Link ICCS to your Practice
Tel: 0208 438 7204**

Further progress on Support Links

Recently there has been recognition that community teams need to co-ordinate better with each other and with GPs

As part of this wider move towards integrated services — EARLI is facilitating links with a number of community professionals to look together at capacity, pathways, and referral issues; helping ensure that older people identified by EARLI can be supported effectively.

Amongst those professionals there is a will to work more closely together. Although everyone is busy, there is an opportunity to move forward and take some steps towards a more integrated approach, with potential benefits to patients, practices and the wider social care economy.

It is clearly important to reduce unplanned admissions so that resources can be released to enhance community services.

Communication is key - and is an issue raised by many Practices on the EARLI visiting schedule.

EARLI will not “disappear without trace” — as perhaps some initiatives have had to do in the past for a variety of reasons—and you can be assured that communication will remain solid throughout.

Q: How can I set up the EARLI Project in my Practice?

A: Refer to the Practical Pack for GPs —which provides step by step guidance. If you need an extra copy—contact Lily Lawson

Q: I have a Vision system—how can I proceed?

A: Dr Alan Selwyn has agreed to speak to Vision Practices to help with set up—contact him on 0208 204 7456 or Alan.Selwyn@nhs.net

Q: What can I do once I have identified those older people most at risk?

A: Discuss care planning at the Practice Meeting. Refer appropriately for additional medical support. Refer to ICCS—who also have links with Social Services. Request feedback and monitor progress



Networking for older people