New Patient Decision Aids put patients at the heart of decisions about their treatment

The national Shared Decision Making Programme is today (19 Sept) launching five new Patient Decision Aids, supporting patients to have more say in their healthcare. Patients are not always made aware of all the available treatment options, and these new Patient Decision Aids present the information they need so they can weigh up the pros and cons and be fully involved in choosing the treatment which best suits their needs, values and preferences.

The five online Patient Decision Aids launched today at http://sdm.rightcare.nhs.uk, are the first in a series of 36 being rolled out over the coming six months. The condition areas cover: Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Repair, Cataracts, Established Kidney Failure, Established Kidney Failure (Kidney Dialysis) and Established Kidney Failure (Kidney Transplant). Forthcoming Patient Decision Aids will include a wide variety of conditions including Osteoarthritis of the Hip, Osteoarthritis of the Knee, Multiple Sclerosis, Pregnancy (after a Caesarian), Localised Prostate Cancer and Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Speaking about the Patient Decision Aids, Dr Steven Laitner, a practicing GP and Clinical Lead for the national Shared Decision Making Programme, said: “All too often there is a paternalistic approach to healthcare, with well-meaning clinicians deciding what is best for their patients. Evidence suggests that patients don’t always know that they have a choice, but when they are involved in decisions about their treatment, their experience, satisfaction and outcomes improve. So we are enormously proud to be launching these new and vital tools for patients, enabling them to share the decision making process with their clinicians. These Patient
Decision Aids help translate the NHS commitment of ‘no decision about me, without me’ and the NHS Mandate into reality”.

Totally Health is responsible for the development of the Patient Decision Aids, along with designing and powering the technology behind them. The editorial content has been compiled by the BMJ Group, supported by a series of Medical Advisory Groups, consisting of condition specialists and patient representatives.

Patients can work through the online Patient Decision Aids (http://sdm.rightcare.nhs.uk) in their own time, alone or supported by family and friends, or by a team of specially trained telephone health coaches. Shared Decision Making sheets, which are shorter versions presenting the treatment options and which can be easily printed, are also on stream; they can be used in or outside the clinical consultation. Mobile Apps are being developed so the information can be accessible anywhere.

The Patient Decision Aids are one of three key workstreams of the national Right Care Shared Decision Making Programme, which is funded by the Department of Health QIPP Programme. Significant expertise and advice from the QIPP Digital Technology Team (www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/qipp) has also informed and supported each of these workstreams within the Shared Decision Making Programme.

Other elements of the Shared Decision Making Programme include campaigns to encourage patients to demand an equal say in decisions about their healthcare and steps to embed Shared Decision Making practice in everyday clinical and commissioning practice.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The web address for the Patient Decision Aids is: http://sdm.rightcare.nhs.uk
- For more information about the national Shared Decision Making Programme, visit [www.rightcare.nhs.uk/sdm](http://www.rightcare.nhs.uk/sdm)

- To arrange an interview with Dr Steve Laitner, Clinical Lead for the national Shared Decision Making Programme, contact Samantha Sherratt on 01223 596946 / 07957 938096

- The new Patient Decision Aids build on those trialled by NHS Direct.

- The three elements of the national Shared Decision Making Programme, are:
  1. *Developing tools which support Shared Decision Making and the provision of decision coaching*, being delivered by communications partner, Totally Health.
  2. *Embedding Shared Decision Making in NHS systems and processes*, being delivered by communications partner, Capita Business Services
  3. *Creating a receptive culture for Shared Decision Making*, being delivered by communications partner AQuA (Advancing Quality Alliance).

- QIPP – Quality, Innovation, Productivity and Prevention - is a large scale transformational programme for the NHS, involving all NHS staff, clinicians, patients and the voluntary sector. The Right Care programme is focussed on increasing quality and value for patients and for commissioners.