**Cardiac Catheter Laboratory Liaison Nurse (CCLLN) – Improving Flow in and out of Edinburgh Heart Centre**

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**Aim**

The Catheter Lab Liaison Team was created to improve and standardise the referral process from the Regional Hospitals for cardiac catheter lab procedures.

- Ensuring equitable access to Catheter Lab Services for the Region.
- Utilise every Catheter Lab slot by improving patient flow from cardiology wards, the district general hospitals and Medical day case.
- Ensure SIGN guideline compliance with timely admission to the cardiac lab following diagnosis of ACS

**Methodology**

- We implemented a new standardised referral form
- We introduced a new cohesive 3 care pathway triage system for all referrals which will be rolled out fully in the near future
- We established the role of CCLLN to coordinate all Catheter Lab procedures

**Results**

- The new referral form has been positively received by the region and is now being used in standard practice.
- Communication has been greatly improved by establishing working relationships through the continuity of the role.
- A new care pathway has been established through the use of the triage system allowing safe & appropriate admission of patients, reducing waiting times for urgent catheter lab procedures.
- Utilisation of catheter lab slots has greatly improved, due to better coordination and communication between departments through the liaison role.
- A reduction in the waiting times for inpatient angiography and implantation of devices (Fig 1).
- A reduction in LOS for all referred patients (Fig 2).

**Conclusion**

- The new referral process and triage system accelerates the appropriate and safe admission of regional patients, enabling a more equitable access to cardiology services.

- The Liaison role has improved interdepartmental communication resulting in a more efficient use of the cardiac catheter Labs

“I believe the recently created cath lab liaison post has been a resounding success. Patient flow has been streamlined and overall I feel that the labs and pacing are running more efficiently. Hopefully this will be born out in the stats. This success is due not least to the effort Mikaela and Kim have put in to the post and their very positive approach to the task at hand.”

Dr Nick Cruden, Consultant Cardiologist  
Catheter Lab Director, RIE