

WEST MIDLANDS ISDN Newsletter

October 2025 Edition



WORLD STROKE DAY



Wednesday 29th October marks World Stroke Day for 2025. This year's campaign will focus on the importance of knowing the signs of stroke and acting FAST. The Stroke Association has [digital resources](#) to help you to raise awareness online. Please do share them on your own social media channels and encourage your networks to do the same. You can find more information [here](#). We would love to see photographs and hear about your events on the day too - feel free to tag us in on social media and/or send them to worldstrokeday@stroke.org.uk

Angharad's story

Angharad was only 31 when she had her stroke. Before her stroke, Angharad was a busy, active working mum. She worked full time as an office manager and was about to start up a new business. Her stroke changed all that.

Fatigue and the emotional impact of her stroke have been the biggest barriers to her recovery. But having the right support has made all the difference. [Read Angharad's story.](#)

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CHOLESTEROL MONTH

October is [HEART UK's National Cholesterol Month!](#)

Do you know what [high cholesterol](#) is? Did you know that 1 in 2 adults in the UK have high cholesterol? It's more common than you think, but that doesn't mean it has to be out of your control.

Take charge of your health with small, manageable changes that can make a big difference — from [eating heart-friendly foods](#) and [staying active](#). Understanding cholesterol and improving [lipid management](#) can prevent [cardiovascular disease](#) and premature mortality. Be the boss of your cholesterol!

Where can you get your cholesterol checked?

Your cholesterol can only be tested via a blood test. You can have a cholesterol test if:

- you're over 40 years old – this is part of your [NHS Health Check](#)
- if you have a family history of high cholesterol
- as part of your medication review if your GP has said you have high cholesterol

Did you know that 1 in 2 adults in the UK have high cholesterol? It's more common than you think, but that doesn't mean it has to be out of your control.

MT REFERRAL PATHWAY WORKSHOP

WEST MIDLANDS MECHANICAL THROMBECTOMY REFERRAL PATHWAY WORKSHOP



Event Date: 25 November 2025
Time: 10:30 – 15:00
Venue: (Hall/Room TBC) Edgbaston Cricket Stadium, Edgbaston Rd, Birmingham B5 7QU
[Please click here for venue directions](#)

Event Details and Speakers:

- Facilitated by West Midlands Integrated Stroke Delivery Network and Dr Indira Natarajan, Clinical Director West Midlands ISDN
- Agenda TBC

All stroke teams working in hyper acute stroke units have been invited to attend this workshop. The aim is to agree on a workable MT referral pathway between referring hospitals and UHB hub site. We encourage representation from clinical, operational and stroke nursing teams

Any queries please email us at: westmidlandsisdn@nhs.uhb.uk



Social Handles – Twitter/X @WM_ISDN – LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/wmidn/>

TASC CELEBRATION EVENT



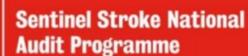
TASC Celebration day was held in London on 16th October to celebrate the achievements of Cohort 2. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring together all the Teams across England to showcase their learning and experience. Marie Harrison from Wye Valley Trust summaries her TASC journey:

“As a trust the project alongside the introduction of CT perfusion has enabled our team to increase our thrombolysis rate from below 10% to above 20% now. It has been so beneficial meeting other teams passionate about stroke and discovering how their ideas and changes are making a difference in the world of stroke and implementing some of those changes here in Hereford. The TASC team have also been so supportive and assisting with data collection and interpretation, again to identify where changes can be made. I have taken away from this project that not all changes need to be “big” with huge financial costs, the smallest of changes can make the an impact and change patients outcomes for the better.”

SAVE THE DATE EVENT 4TH MARCH 2026

Save the date for the West Midlands ISDN stroke care engagement event in March 2026!
 Watch this space for more details in the coming months!

SSNAP UPDATE



Organisational audit

- The data entry for the **November Organisational Audit** is now available upon request. If you would like to start entering data, please contact the **helpdesk and request an unlock**. The dataset will be the same one that was completed in May, but you will be able to make any necessary updates. To appear in the November report, teams will need check and lock their audits before the deadline, scheduled for the **1st December 2025 at 5PM**.

Results and reports

SSNAP **National and Regional ISDN results** portfolios are now available for **April -June 2025** to all public. The latest SSNAP results, and the **Public Infographic** can be viewed [here](#).

Organisational audit ISDN results are now publicly available. [Results > Combined Organisational Audit > Regional-ISDN](#)

The **Organisational Audit** report for **May 2025** is now available to teams [here](#). Please ensure you are logged in, as access is restricted to registered SSNAP users.

Organisational audit Infographics is available here: [Results > Combined Organisational Audit > National](#)

The **annual thrombectomy fact sheet** for the period 2024/25 is available [here](#).

The **Annual Results Portfolio (April 2024 – March 2025)** is now available in the [Results Area](#).

The **Inpatient Team-Level Dashboard** can be accessed [here](#). Please ensure you are logged in, as access is restricted to registered SSNAP users. Password: **2025**

Case study competition

We are looking for inspiring case studies highlighting your team's accomplishments over the years and how improvements have directly affected patient care and experience. This competition is open to All SSNAP teams including inpatients and community teams. SSNAP users from CCGs, LHBs and LCGs are also welcomed to showcase how improvements to services were made at commissioning level within the wider NHS. We ask that all teams interested in participating to submit the following information by **Wednesday 18th November 2025 5pm** to ssnap@kcl.ac.uk

- Testimonials on how your team uses SSNAP data to inform and improve stroke patient care.
 - This can include; Organisation, Aim of project, Challenges, Results / learning point.
- Case studies can be a one-page report or a 2-minute Video, one case study per team, case studies must include team name/ team code. You can view previous case studies [here](#). Winners will be awarded SSNAP goodies and presented with certificates at the **UK Stroke Forum in Aberdeen between 25th – 27th November 2025**. The best case studies will be featured on SSNAP webpage.

OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

- ⇒ This month's West Midlands Thrombectomy Network meeting focused on Q3 SSNAP data with a review of thrombectomy and thrombolysis rates as well as DIDO times. It was great to hear improvements in all these key areas. The group also shared updates on the pilot of pre-video triage, currently underway at several sites including Coventry, Worcester & Hereford - all of which have reported positive early feedback. RHH, MMUH and QEH are in the planning stages of implementation
- ⇒ We hosted our clinical webinar session on 15th October, focusing on case studies including a case on paediatric stroke. Thank you to all who joined the session, and the speakers, Dr Yoshua Collins-Sawaragi, Dr Mohammed Dawood Sohail and Dr Logitha Jegathasan for delivering this session. For those that were unable to attend you can [watch the recording on our FutureNHS platform](#). You will need to create an account if you do not have one and [join our WM ISDN FutureNHS Platform workspace](#)
- ⇒ The West Midlands Regional Working Party for Psychology met this month to review the scoping document regarding psychology provision across the patch. We discussed how to use the document and data to have the most impact with commissioning, retaining and supporting psychology in stroke. The document will be shared once finalised
- ⇒ West Midlands Stroke Advanced Nursing in Acute Care group met this month to reflect on ongoing challenges and share learning. The meeting also discussed PVT, TASC and other QI projects
- ⇒ NHSE has shared the Modern Service Framework consultation paper for input from stroke networks. We are working on developing case studies to provide local intelligence to inform a clinical approach to delivering the 10 year plan
- ⇒ ISDN Residential was held on 16th and 17th October featuring discussions on key national topics
- ⇒ The first meeting for the NHSE Midlands Prevention Working group took place focusing on the vital connection between CVD with stroke care and prevention

UPCOMING EVENTS

British Heart Foundation(BHF) Healthcare Implementation Fund are now accepting application - Closing Date : 17 November – [For details please click here](#)
 National CVD Preventions lunch and learn - 5th November- If interested please email england.clinicalpolicy@nhs.net
 MT awareness event in North Midlands -19th November - if interested please email sayhello@premanagement.co.uk
 MT Referral Workshop - 25th November
 Bedded Rehab review at Rowley Regis for Dudley and Sandwell - 27th November
 UK Stroke Forum 25-27th November [UK Stroke Forum 25](#)

IN THE NEXT EDITION

World Stroke Day events| November highlights| Future NHS and much more