

Waltham Forest AF clinic engages with local GPs.

A newly established AF clinic at Waltham Forest has already seen over 40 AF patients since opening. GPs in the area are being encouraged to contact the centre for support in managing their AF patients. Suzanne Robson, Lead Arrhythmia Nurse at the centre explains that she is "involved with reviewing local AF patients on the GP's register and introducing new, free NHS resources to enhance their care and management." Suzanne is able to spend an extended appointment time with AF patients who are newly diagnosed, not responding well to current treatments or may be initiating new medication. The time and support is welcomed by patients and those GPs already benefitting from this new service and is reflected in the speedier treatment times being achieved, and when necessary, referral times to specialist arrhythmia consultants, who have a clinic at the Waltham Forest centre on a regular basis.

Patients seen so far have liked the 'closer to home' service, and GPs have been pleased at the much faster return of test results and swift referral responses. Sharing this large work load is both good for the patients and the practice staff and is already beginning to show financial benefits.

In April, Suzanne will be organising a pulse check event LAS; this will be run across Waltham Forest and, it is hoped, will not only detect further patients at risk from an undiagnosed arrhythmia (heart rhythm disorder) but also raise awareness importance of 'Knowing Your Pulse'. Arrhythmia Alliance and Atrial Fibrillation Association will be supporting this event.