



North Central London Perinatal Network

South England Neonatal Database (SEND) system

What is the North Central London Perinatal network?

In March 2003 the London Regional Specialised Commissioning Group agreed the configuration of neonatal networks across London. The North Central London Perinatal network includes the:

- Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust (level 1 neonatal unit)
- Chase Farm Hospital (level 1)
- Barnet Hospital (level 2)
- Whittington Hospital NHS Trust (level 2)
- University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (level 3)
- Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust

Chief Executives agreed to the set-up of a project board which decided to sign up to the SEND project.

What is SEND?

The South England Neonatal Database (SEND) is a neonatal database system that is being implemented across 9 neonatal networks in south England (covering 59 neonatal units).

SEND is a web based system accessible via the NHSnet, upon which clinical information regarding the baby is collected.

What are the advantages of SEND?

- For the first time neonatal units will be collecting information using the same methodology which will: (i) provide comparative data (ii) support audit of activity and outcomes (iii) allow benchmarking.
- **Discharge summaries:** Improved efficiency.
- **Transfers:** patients' medical notes can be shared between hospitals.
- It will have **cot finding capability** – national requirement.
- It will aid **Payment By Results** – national requirement.
- Output includes **Commissioning Data**

Will UCLH NHS Trust have to fund SEND?

No. The SEND system for UCLH is being funded by the North Central London Perinatal Network. The license fee and yearly subscription has already been paid for all neonatal units in the North Central London Perinatal Network.

How does SEND fit with the national NHS EPR system?

To meet national requirements we need a system in place now to collect the relevant neonatal information. SEND is seen as an interim solution until the national EPR system is implemented.

How much support will IT have to give?

Minimal. Since this is a web-based solution any problems with the database will be directed to the company that supports it (Clevermed). Staff will be trained by a member of staff from the North Central London Perinatal Network, who will also support with reporting.

Data issues

The system will initially operate as a 'stand alone' product (phase 1). Phase 2 of the SEND project will involve interfacing with the trust's EPR system (coordinated by Clevermed), to avoid data duplication.

The SEND data sharing protocol has already been agreed by the UCLH Caldicott Guardian.

Reliability

To use the SEND system requires an NHS connection. The North Central London Perinatal Network has come up with contingency plans to address the problem of 'down time' (i.e. raw data download as backup, paper documents for collecting data).