

Lord Prior of Brampton
Parliamentary Under-Secretary (NHS
Productivity) Department of Health
Richmond House
79 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2NS

27th May 2016

Dear Lord Prior

Re: Ambulance Response Programme Clinical Coding Trial

I am writing to inform you that following representation from West Midlands Ambulance Service Foundation Trust (WMAS) via the Association of Ambulance Chief Executives we have considered the case for WMAS to join the Clinical Coding Trial. Following extensive discussion we have agreed with our partners at NHS Pathways and the National Ambulance Commissioners Network that the planning and preparation for the ARP Clinical Coding Trial at WMAS can go ahead as discussed at the delivery meeting of 3rd May 2016.

The WMAS trial is set to go live in the week commencing 6th June subject to the receipt of a satisfactory assurance letter.

The Trust has built reversal mechanisms into the implementation plans so the coding changes can be swiftly reverted to the previous system should this prove necessary.

The ARP Expert Reference Group (ERG) and the Clinical Coding Trial Operational Group (CCTOG) have developed a modified set of Ambulance Quality Indicators (AQIs) for the trial alongside a set of critical review criteria.

As with our two current trial sites senior operational staff from WMAS, who have been involved in the process throughout, will be in the ambulance control room at go live, monitoring implementation on a minute by minute basis with oversight from our operational group, reporting to the expert reference group. We have established a 48 hour review mechanism that is capable of halting the trial and initiating the reversal process within 2 days of a serious safety incident being identified. We have also specified accelerated clinical outcome indicators that will be available within 2 weeks. The system AQI data will be reported weekly.

The trial is monitored and evaluated by our academic partner at Sheffield School of Health and Related Research as well as by the ERG, CCTOG, the national ARP

steering group and our stakeholder reference group. A full evaluation report has been commissioned for Summer 2016.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Willett', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Professor Keith Willett
Medical Director for Acute Care
NHS England