PReCePT (Prevention of Cerebral Palsy in Preterm Labour) programme

What is the innovation?
Administering magnesium sulfate to mothers in premature labour before 30 weeks of pregnancy, is known to reduce the incidence of cerebral palsy. For every 37 mothers given magnesium, 1 case of cerebral palsy can be prevented.

Why are we doing it?
Between 4,000 and 5,000 babies are born before 30 weeks gestation in England per year and stand to benefit from the administration of magnesium sulphate (MgSO4), costing from £1 per individual dose.

PReCePT was selected by NHS England as one of the seven programmes for adoption and spread across the national AHSN Network during 2018-2020.

This evidence-based, cost-effective project is designed to reduce cerebral palsy in pre-term infants through the increased antenatal administration of magnesium sulphate (MgSO4) to mothers during preterm labour. Between 4,000 and 5,000 babies are born before 30 weeks’ gestation in England per year and stand to benefit from the PReCePT programme.

What was delivered 2018-19?
- Soft launch through the Wessex Maternal and Neonatal Learning System in October 2018
- PReCePT Programme and Clinical Lead recruited
- All 8 eligible units have signed up to the programme and have a named Midwife Lead / Champion in place

Plans for 2019-20:
- The programme and clinical lead will support all units in delivery of the programme
- The focus will be to learn from current practice and identify areas for improvement, celebrating successes at every step of the way
- We will create opportunities to help units to engage with each other, build their network, share their experience, improve their quality improvement (QI) knowledge and support one another

Wessex is engaging with all the eligible units across the region – that’s 8 in total

The programme officially launched in October 2018 and will run until March 2020
About the Academic Health Science Network

Wessex Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) is one of 15 AHSNs set up by NHS England in 2013 and relicensed from April 2018 to operate as the key innovation arm of the NHS.

At Wessex AHSN we improve people’s health, achieve excellence in healthcare and boost transformation and growth in our region’s life sciences and healthcare sector.

We connect academics, NHS, local authorities, industry and citizens to bring fresh energy to old problems, inspired thinking to new ones and to spread innovation and best practice across health and social care.

Wessex boasts over 250 life science companies in medtech, medbiotech, industrial biotech and pharma.

The region’s population of 3 million is served by 10 CCGs, 9 local authorities, 11 NHS Trusts and 5 universities.

The region’s life sciences industry employs 9,000 and has a turnover of £2.5 billion.

10% of the workforce in Wessex is employed in the health economy.

Want to find out more?

The AHSN Network

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Watch our short video about what we do at wessexahsn.org.uk/aboutwessexahsn