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UK CCG SCOOPS TOP INTERNATIONAL AWARD

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NHS East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group, from the UK, has been presented with this year's Starfield Award at an awards ceremony in Texas, for its ground-breaking population-profiling work.

By Tonya Stewart

A Clinical Commissioning Group in Berkshire in the UK has won an international award for helping to identify people at risk of hospital admission and providing them with a care and support plan.

Slough Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) - now merged with Bracknell and Ascot, Windsor, Ascot and Maidenhead CCGs to form one single organisation, East Berkshire CCG - received the 2018 Starfield Award at the Johns Hopkins ACG System 2018 International Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

The award is in recognition of their innovative Population Profiling to Support a New Model of Clinical Delivery project, which used the Johns Hopkins ACG System to identify people at risk of hospital admission and then provided them with a care and support plan.

The Starfield Award was established in honour of Barbara Starfield, M.D., a Johns Hopkins University Distinguished Professor and co-developer of the Johns Hopkins ACG System, which analyses healthcare data, the results of which improve accuracy and fairness in evaluating provider performance, identifies patients at high risk, forecasts healthcare utilisation and sets equitable payment rates.

The award honours her legacy by recognising the best use of the ACG System in three key areas of her work: addressing multi-morbidity in individual patients and populations; reducing disparities in the delivery of primary healthcare and improving population health.

"We are honoured to receive this award named after one of the true pioneers in population health analytics and we are delighted to see the work of the CCG being recognised internationally," said Dr Jim O'Donnell, NHS clinical lead for the Slough locality.

"We have worked hard to plan for the health needs of the population we serve using evidence about the way patients have historically used services.

"The ACG system has allowed us to support patients more proactively," said Sangeeta Saran, East Berkshire CCG's associate director of planned care. "This award demonstrates what we can achieve by working together."

"We congratulate the team for successfully converting ACG System data output into actionable information and then using it to inform their population health management approach," said Kumar Subramaniam, executive director of population health analytics at Johns Hopkins HealthCare Solutions.

The biennial Starfield Award, which is sponsored by DST, receives numerous applications from leaders in healthcare research from across the globe. The ACG system is now the most widely used population-based case mix system in the world - and has been used in commercial, government and research settings worldwide, impacting nearly 200 million lives in 30 countries, including Norway, Sweden, Iceland and the UK.

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