

## 2.09 Expanding the Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD) Nursing Service in the Western Health and Social Care Trust: Evaluating the Impact

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**Background:** Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) affects over 1,200 people in Northern Ireland (NI) (1), the highest IPF prevalence rate in the UK(2). The Western Health and Social Care Trust (WHST) NI, consists of two respiratory hospitals geographically located 50 miles apart. The southern sector of the trust, has suffered from inequalities of access to care for IPF due to lack of access to specialist ILD nursing care, a key standard of the NICE IPF guidelines. (3)We present an evaluation of the expansion of specialist ILD nurse provision. **Methods:** Data captured clinic attendance from 2017 -2024 & patient satisfaction questionnaire using likert scale & open ended questions was administered in the newly established specialist nurse clinic. **Results:** Patients attendances increased by 288% from 249 in 2018-2019 to 717 in 2023-2024. Oxygen assessments showed a continued rise up until May 2024. Anti-fibrotic prescribing within the WHST has also increased by 100% from 2019. Patients feedback, highlighted the pivotal role of the ILD nurse. *“First class service, fantastic support for client and carer”*. **Conclusion:** Expansion of Specialist ILD nurse service, has reduced health inequalities and improved timely access to best supportive care, oxygen assessments and counselling for patients on anti-fibrotic therapies.**Conflict of Interest:** The authors have no conflict of interest.

### References:

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