

## 2021 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence Award Winner: Croydon University Hospital is One Step Closer to HIV Elimination

As we prepare for world AIDS day on December 1, it's important to recognize and celebrate healthcare teams who have improved outcomes related to HIV and AIDS. At Croydon University Hospital in the UK, Drs Ian Cormack, Clinical Lead HIV Medicine, and Linda Vaccari, Sexual Health Registrar, had a vision for getting AIDS to zero at their institution. With the help of their integrated clinical care team, they implemented an opt-out HIV screening program in emergency department (ED) to enable earlier diagnosis and treatment of those with HIV. Through this transformative program they were able to identify unsuspecting patients earlier, leading to a reduction in AIDS defining illnesses in newly diagnosed HIV patients from 78% to 4%. They also reduced unnecessary admissions (from 31% to 0%) while substantially reducing mortality for newly diagnosed HIV patients from 23% to 0%.

This impressive initiative has achieved a sustained 97% testing rate for all eligible patients presenting to the ED which is the highest rate ever recorded. Their program has

enabled the diagnosis of 25 patients with newly identified HIV, representing a 3-fold increase compared to the three years before. Their ED is now responsible for diagnosing more new HIV cases than all other HIV testing centers combined. Due to the widespread success of their initiative, it is now being implemented in EDs across the nation with the hope of eliminating new HIV infections in the UK by 2030.

For their commitment to healthcare excellence and outstanding outcomes the integrated clinical care responsible for this initiative was awarded one of the top 3 honors of the 2021 UNIVANTS of Healthcare Excellence awards. Congratulations Ian Cormack, Linda Vaccari, Mike Bell, Leslie Perry, Sarah Horne and Andrew Widdowson!

To learn about this integrated clinical care initiative and others, please visit [www.UnivantsHCE.com](http://www.UnivantsHCE.com).