Executive Summary:

University Hospital Waterford is a large academic teaching hospital providing general medical, surgical and maternity care to the 0.5 million population of the South East of Ireland in the following areas of clinical practice:

Cardiology, Trauma Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Neurology, Nephrology, Rheumatology, Urology, Vascular Surgery, ENT and Neonatology, Radiology, Pathology and Microbiology.

The hospital is the designated cancer centre for the South East, providing rapid access assessment for breast, prostate, lung and skin cancers. Cancer surgery is centralised at UHW. Haematology, medical oncology and palliative care is provided through inpatient and day care facilities. There are 431 inpatient and 85-day procedure beds.

As part of the National Health Library and Knowledge Service strategy – Turning Knowledge into Action: Enabling Care, Improving Health, 2018–2023 – UHW library recognised the importance of utilising Elsevier’s knowledge discovery and access tool, ClinicalKey, which was deployed to help reinforce a culture in which knowledge is valued as an asset and using knowledge is integral to the delivery of health and care. A key component of the National Health Library and Knowledge Service vision is that every health professional will have access to apply knowledge into clinical practice, whenever and wherever they need it, to deliver the best possible health and care.

The Situation:

The library at University Hospital Waterford is a multidisciplinary library catering for medical, paramedical, nursing, health and social care professionals and students on clinical placement at the hospital and in the greater Waterford catchment area. One role of the library is to help ensure that the best available research evidence underpins clinical decision making and advances patient care.

In 2018, the National Health Library and Knowledge Service set out their new strategy – Turning Knowledge into Action: Enabling Care, Improving Health, 2018–2023 – with the objective of establishing a fully integrated and quality-assured national service, recognised by healthcare professionals for adding value by using knowledge to deliver safe, effective, person-centered healthcare, accessible to all.
The Challenge:

“Prior to the implementation of ClinicalKey, a key priority set out by the National Health Library and Knowledge Service was to improve access to current, relevant information for our healthcare professionals. As stated in the national library strategy: ‘Everyone working in Ireland’s health service will have access to knowledge and will apply it … to deliver the best possible healthcare’”

says Brendan Leen, Regional Librarian.

With the introduction of ClinicalKey, healthcare professionals are now able to access such content as medical e-journals and e-books, expanding the electronic collections of the library service and embracing a culture in which knowledge is a valued asset in clinical practice.

“Having access to the most relevant, credible content to support evidence-based care is imperative to address challenges faced by healthcare professionals every day:

1. TIME: clinicians are under immense service pressures; and
2. ICT: the availability of resources in a user-friendly and accessible format”

says Brendan Leen, Regional Librarian.
The Solution:

ClinicalKey is a knowledge discovery and access tool that supports healthcare professionals with the latest evidence across specialties in a variety of formats, including full-text reference books and journals, point-of-care monographs, drug information, videos, practice guidelines, customised patient education handouts and more.

ClinicalKey can relieve those pressures of keeping pace with current evidence by providing both vetted, synoptic content and comprehensive medical detail from the most reliable and trusted sources, helping doctors, nurses and health and social care professionals make informed clinical decisions.

With the implementation of ClinicalKey, healthcare professionals now have access to a greatly expanded collection of full-text content at the click of the button.

“As the medical librarian at UHW, ClinicalKey allows me to save time searching for current information and exporting images/graphics as and when needed to PowerPoint presentations to share with the wider healthcare professional community.”

Pauline Ryan, Medical Librarian at University Hospital Waterford

The Outcome:

ClinicalKey is now in constant use throughout the hospital with many users accessing ClinicalKey on a daily basis to help support their clinical questions.

“Before ClinicalKey, access to current evidence-based content was limited to my library thorough books alone; now, with ClinicalKey, it allows me to access the same information at the click of a button whilst knowing that I am practicing to current treatment protocols, with the reassurance that I am delivering optimal care to my patients.”

J.B. O’Connor, Surgeon at University Hospital Waterford
“ClinicalKey allows for constant self-checking. Whether it is keeping up with the latest content, preparing for a patient consultation or using its Presentation Maker feature, ClinicalKey enables fast access to online textbooks and journals as part of our library service.”

David Smyth, Consultant ENT Surgeon at University Hospital Waterford

In supporting clinical decision making and reducing the time spent searching for evidence to support clinical diagnoses, ClinicalKey has facilitated access for healthcare professionals at UHW to the latest clinical knowledge, ensuring that all teams are working with the most trusted and acknowledged sources.

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