

North West Anglia Foundation Trust partners with Inhealthcare to launch a new acute virtual ward for patients to receive care safely at home.

The challenge

Health services in England have been tasked with treating more patients at home through virtual wards. North West Anglia Foundation Trust wanted to adopt virtual wards to reduce avoidable admissions, support earlier discharge and ease pressures on inpatient beds, as well as improving overall patient experience.

Inhealthcare was selected as the digital health partner of choice.

The solution

Working with Inhealthcare, North West Anglia Foundation Trust has rolled out an acute virtual ward for patients with conditions including heart failure, infection, respiratory diseases and stroke. Up to 20 patients per day are choosing to join the North West Anglia Foundation Trust Acute service under the care of a consultant-led clinical team.

The service offers patients who are recovering but not yet fit for discharge the chance to return home with simple devices for measuring vital signs including blood pressure, temperature, blood oxygen level and weight.

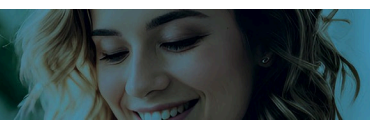
Patients supply readings up to three times per day through options such as a mobile app, text message or telephone landline and receive regular check-in calls from nurses. If any readings fall outside the expected range, the system automatically alerts clinicians to intervene with medical advice and treatment.

Evaluation

The service went live in December. From December to June, the service has admitted 596 patients. Patients spend an average of four days on the virtual ward before being discharged or transferred to primary care. The service has a 98% satisfaction rate.

The cumulative occupied bed days (as a proxy for bed days saved) is 2300, with a total saving of £810,000.

The trust plans to extend the service to frailer patients whose health can be monitored continuously with wearable devices.



Evaluation snapshot over a 6 month period

596

patients admitted
onto virtual ward

2300

bed days saved

£810,000

cost savings

4

days spent on virtual ward, on average

98%

patient satisfaction rate



"We are proud to partner with North West Anglia Foundation Trust to pioneer the future of NHS care through remote monitoring.

Virtual wards help patients get home sooner, reduce delays in transfers of care, and free hospital beds for urgent cases."

Bryn Sage, CEO, Inhealthcare

Dr Deyo Okubadejo, Lead Clinician for Virtual Wards, North West Anglia Foundation Trust

"Patients love being at home instead of being in hospital and feel safe knowing a nurse regularly contacts them.

There are far more benefits for patients who are medically appropriate to be monitored and regularly contacted from the comfort of their home, rather than in a hospital bed. These include patients being less likely to acquire an infection or experience a decline in functionality if they are in their own home surroundings.

Our virtual ward is able to provide the safety and security of professional clinical care, provided within a familiar and safe setting for the patient. Virtual wards have massive potential as a fourth dimension of care with patients at home, alongside primary, secondary, and community care."



"I'm really impressed with Inhealthcare. I can go to the company and get a same day-response. The clinicians really rate the kit. We really enjoy working with the team."

Kim Ashall, Programme Lead for Virtual Ward for C&P ICB

