

NHS England – TECS CASE STUDY 006:**Location: Ayrshire and Arran****Commissioners: NHS Ayrshire and Arran – East Ayrshire Council, North Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council****Provider: Medvivo****Ambition level: 1, 2, 3, 4****Background – what the project hopes to achieve:**

NHS Ayrshire and Arran wanted to improve the patient pathway for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). As well as improving the wellbeing of patients with COPD, the ambition was to reduce unplanned hospital admissions, reduce pressure on GP appointments and out of hours services – all of which would also make real cost savings in the local health economy. The service was originally piloted in Girvan Community Hospital and then extended to Dalmellington.

How does it work?

Each patient is given a HomePod - a touch screen tablet. It is paired to a medical device such as blood pressure monitor, pulse oximeter and weight scales. These readings are sent in real-time to a clinician who can review and to take the appropriate and necessary actions depending on the readings.

What was achieved?

The service is now being used by 150 patients and since the project began in 2011. Cost effectiveness analysis carried out by NHS Ayrshire and Arran has concluded:

- Savings of 40% compared to “usual care” (equating to £100,000)
- 26% reduction in GP appointments
- 70% reduction in emergency admissions to hospital
- 86% reduction to local OOH service (Ayrshire Doctors on Call)

Anecdotal evidence from patients is positive with many expressing their satisfaction with the technology, their sense of security at being monitored and the reduced stress and inconvenience of GP or hospital check ups. Feedback from the care teams indicates that

patients are much more aware of their condition and able to manage it better. Medication adherence has also improved as the impact of their treatment on their condition is evidenced.

Commissioning, procurement, information governance challenges:

The development of the programme has resulted in a much closer working relationship between NHS Ayrshire and Arran and Local Authority staff in the joint management of COPD. This has streamlined the pathway as awareness increases and duplications of assessments are likely to reduce.

What does the future hold?

“This is the way forward for the future of healthcare and Ayrshire is leading the way. Scotland has already made significant progress on developing and expanding new technologies, and other countries will be looking to Ayrshire as they look for different ways of working within health and social care. I congratulate everyone involved in this Ayrshire initiative.” Health Secretary, Alex Neil