

Tunstall Healthcare
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Media Release

For Immediate Release

Title: UK Uses Telehealth to Gain Patient Involvement

The National Health Service in North East Essex in the UK has launched a telehealth service in partnership with Tunstall Healthcare that will enhance care provision for patients with long term conditions, improve their quality of life and help reduce some of the pressure on healthcare providers.

With 4088 bed days taken up with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients and an average length of stay of seven days per admission, NHS North East Essex has taken the proactive decision to invest in telehealth to help reduce emergency admissions and bed days related to chronic heart failure (CHF) and COPD. ¹

Telehealth home monitoring has already helped to reduce the need for patients to make frequent visits to GP surgeries for routine checkups or nurse home visits, and is enabling patients to self care and manage their condition.

Following the deployment of the telehealth service over a six month period, the average number of GP visits made by patients reduced by 66%, the average number of patient hospital attendances or emergency callouts reduced by 44% and the average number of home visits required dropped by 19%.

Like 90% of clinicians involved in the provision of this telehealth project, Caroline Westley, project lead at North East Essex PCT can see how telehealth empowers patients and reduces the need for such regular nursing visits.

“Telehealth is providing a vital service to the community by helping to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions, providing patients with the tools to self care therefore making them feel more empowered and informed about their health and reducing anxiety and exacerbations.”

An early evaluation of the telehealth service shows that 100% of patients agreed that the service had helped them better understand their condition and that they felt more involved in their own care.

Eighty three percent of patients said that it had helped them cope better with their symptoms and had given them a sense of security and peace of mind, while ninety two percent of users found the monitors easy to use and would continue to use telehealth in the future.

In North East Essex patients with COPD and CHF will be supplied with telehealth solutions from Tunstall Healthcare, which monitor their blood pressure, oxygen levels, weight and temperature as well as asking a series of health related questions.

The information is then transmitted via the telephone line where specialist nursing staff triage the data and manage patient health remotely to ensure timely support is given to patients in need.

The telehealth North East Essex project aims to support over 100 patients during 2010.

To learn more about local and international telehealthcare projects and to access telehealth in Australia visit www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au or call 1800 611 528.

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If you require any additional information or images please contact Kirsty Skene, Marketing Coordinator 07 3637 2200, kirsty.skene@tunstallap.com
For more product information, case studies and latest news visit tunstallhealthcare.com.au

About Tunstall Healthcare

With over 2.5 million users globally, Tunstall is the market leading provider of telecare and telehealth solutions. Across Australia Tunstall's solutions support older people and those with long term needs to live independently, by effectively managing their health and wellbeing. Tunstall provides technology, expertise and advice to millions of people enabling them to lead independent more fulfilling lives. For more information on how telecare and telehealth can improve quality of life, visit www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au