

MEDIA RELEASE

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NHS failing to adopt innovations aimed at improving patients' lives

Adoption of high impact innovations aimed at improving millions of patients' lives is patchy and inconsistent across the NHS in England, a new report from the Medical Technology Group has revealed.

Six recommendations by NHS Improvement & Efficiency, Innovation and Service Improvement in December 2011 - including those relating to improving access to wheelchairs for disabled children and reducing face to face meetings - are not being adopted across the board, with some regions of the country drastically underperforming, the report found.

The NHS's Innovation, Health & Wealth report identified six areas where patient care could be improved through high impact innovations:

- **3MillionLives:** the use of telehealth and remote monitoring was designed to improve the lives of three million people in five years, by reducing emergency hospital admissions and hospital bed days. The MTG report found that just 45% of regions have agreed new models for technology provision with providers. Take up across regions varied from 15% in the Eastern region to 71% in the East Midlands.
- **Oesophageal Doppler Monitoring:** minimally invasive technology to assess the fluid status of patients and ensure they are safe. ODM combats hypovolaemia - a reduction in circulating blood volume that almost all patients in surgery or Accident & Emergency develop. Hypovolaemia can cause medical complications including peripheral and major organ failure, which if not dealt with quickly can lead to severe compromise or even death. The MTG found that just 40% of Clinical Commission Groups (CCGs) were working with local providers on intra-operative fluid management (IOFM) targets. The numbers ranged from 16% in London to 67% in the South West.

- **Child in a chair in a day:** NHS waiting times for wheelchairs for disabled children have often been 200 days or more. The promised 'Child in a chair in a day' programme aimed to get disabled children into an appropriate wheelchair within a day, working with the charity Whizz-Kidz. However, the data reveals poor implementation on every measure. Only 4% of CCGs that responded had agreed payments relating to the programme. They were all in the West Midlands, London or the South East. Only 12% of Trusts had developed an action plan around the delivery of mobility services for children. On average the wait for a wheelchair was 50 days.
- **International and Commercial Activity:** the goal was to work with UK Trade and Investment to increase national and international healthcare activity. The MTG report found that, although two-thirds of Trusts has a strategy in place to make use of the intellectual property they developed, only 6% of CCGs had agreed payments relating to international and commercial activity. These were concentrated in just three regions: the South East, South West and North West.
- **Digital by default:** one of the goals of the Innovation, Health & Wealth report was to reduce unnecessary face to face meetings, for example through the use of email, meaning less inconvenience for patients and better use of NHS resources. Every 1% reduction in face to face contact saves £200 million. Although CCGs and Trusts are working very well together, there is vast regional variation. No CCGs in the Eastern region reported payments for Digital by default, compared with 36% in the South West region.
- **Support for carers of people with dementia:** the Innovation Health & Wealth report calls on the NHS to commission dementia services in line with NICE-SCIE (National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence / Social Care Institute for Excellence) guidance. 94% of CCGs are working with local providers to ensure carers receive relevant information where there is diagnosis of dementia. However more than half of CCGs had failed to formulate Commissioning for quality and innovation (CQUIN) criteria for this area, suggesting room for improvement.

ABHI, AdvaMed, AntiCoagulation Europe, ARMA, Arrhythmia Alliance, Arthritis Care, Atrial Fibrillation Association, BD, Bladder and Bowel Foundation, Boston Scientific, British Cardiac Patients Association, C R Bard, Cardiomyopathy Association, Diabetes UK, Eucomed, FABLE, FEMISA, Heart Research UK, ICD Group, INPUT, International Alliance of Patients' Organizations, JDRF, Johnson & Johnson, Lindsay Leg Club, Medtronic, National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society, Pancreatic Cancer UK, Pelvic Pain Support Network, Pumping Marvellous Foundation, Roche Diagnostics, SADS UK , St Jude Medical, STARS, Stryker , The Circulation Foundation, The Patients Association, Transplant Support Network



Commenting on the report, Barbara Harpham, Chair of the Medical Technology Group, said:

“With tight budgets and the need to make major efficiency improvements, it has never been more important for the NHS to use technology to improve patient care. It is tragic that we have not seen take up of simple measures to stop unnecessary A&E admissions, or to speed up children getting wheelchairs they need.

“Back in 2011, the NHS rightly identified the ways technology could help patients and save money. Now it needs to do much better to take its own ideas forward.”

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About the Medical Technology Group

The Medical Technology Group (MTG) is a coalition of patient groups, research charities and medical device manufacturers working to make medical technologies available to everyone who needs them. Uptake of medical technology in the UK is not as good as it should be, given its great potential to provide value for money to the NHS, patients and taxpayers. The MTG believes that patients and clinicians need better information about medical technologies so that they can make informed choices about their medical care.

<http://www.mtg.org.uk/>

Notes to Editors

A Freedom of Information request was sent to 211 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across England in October 2014. 189 CCGs (90%) responded.

A full copy of the report: Innovation, Health & Wealth – A Scorecard report can be found at

<http://www.mtg.org.uk/bulletins/innovation-health-and-wealth-scorecard>