

Tunstall Healthcare
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Press Release



For Immediate Release

Reduced Hospital Admissions and Improved Care for Patients with Chronic Heart Failure Using Telehealth

GPs at the Orchard Medical Centre in Bristol, UK have reported the success of telehealth at improving care outcomes, medication compliance, self care and independence for patients with chronic heart failure.

Using Tunstall Healthcare's RTX telehealth monitor, district nurses were able to remotely monitor patients' vital signs, such as weight, blood pressure, ECG and peak flow to quickly detect abnormalities and notify the patients' GP of the potential onset of an emergency incident.

On a daily basis, the RTX prompted patients to take their vital signs and answer a series of health related questions, lessening their need to visit the GP practice or hospital to manage and understand their own healthcare

The practice integrated telehealth into their chronic heart failure service to provide community based preventative support that would reduce some of the burden on secondary care providers while providing a cost effective health management approach.

In the case of one patient with severe heart failure and a history of poor medication compliance, the telehealth monitor enabled GPs to view the direct link between poor medication compliance, weight gain and low oxygen saturation.

The introduction of telehealth allowed the patient to see the importance and direct consequence of her not taking her medication.

Another patient who had previously been in and out of hospital had not needed to use any after hours health services in the 18 months after using telehealth.

With its ability to identify trends and changes in vital signs, telehealth offers an effective way of using community care to keep people out of hospital.

Telehealth is also beneficial for patients who find it difficult to visit the surgery, still allowing their health to be monitored.

According to Dr Richard Berkley, clinical lead on the telehealth project, the study also showed that patients found the solutions easy to use, resulting in increased medication compliance and improvement in quality of life.

“Telehealth keeps people where they want to be, and that’s at home with their family”, Dr Berkley said.

“Patient acceptance of telehealth is high. Daily monitoring has enabled more accurate monitoring of patient medication, and also gives patients valuable reassurance, keeping them calm and reducing the risks of exacerbation and of hospital admission.”

The positive results reported by The Orchard Medical Centre reflects the growing acceptance of telehealth as a means of enabling the UK to support a greater number of patients, improving outcomes and making the best use of available resources.

As a result of the success of the project, the Orchard Medical Centre is looking to expand the use of telehealth within Gloucestershire, through closer involvement and collaboration with other local GP practices.

So far Australia has been slow to embrace telehealth even with studies like the Orchard Medical Centre showing its success at improving medical outcomes, medication compliance and quality of life, while reducing cost of care.

Australia needs governments to start investing in telehealth to prepare us for the influx in demand for healthcare services that we will experience over the next 50 years.

If you would like additional information on telehealth in Australia or a copy of the Orchard Medical Centre case study visit www.tunstallhealthcare.com.au or call 1300 760 333.

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If you require any additional information or images please contact Lauren Tucker, Marketing Coordinator 07 3637 2200, lauren.tucker@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