

Health and Wellbeing Group May 2022 (Working with the NHS Northwest Innovation Agency)

The May meeting of the Patient and Public Involvement Senate of the Innovation Agency received a talk about an App providing digital access for patients to enable them to self-refer to a consultant for a particular health condition, for example a musculoskeletal issue, whereby the process can be accelerated by the patient completing an online questionnaire to ensure their referral to the most appropriate clinician. This can be used both in the NHS and in the private medical sectors.

More details can be found on their website <https://www.virtuallucy.co.uk/>

The rest of the meeting was used to discuss the updating of the Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement Framework for the Agency. A task and finish group will be set up to complete this piece of work to ensure that the operating framework meets all the required criteria.

At the meeting of the Patient Safety Ambassadors, there was a presentation about a new workstream by the Accelerated Access Collaborative, which is to identify patients who have **severe** asthma. The aim is to identify patients who have severe asthma by searching GP computer systems using defined criteria, and then reviewing those who are found from the system searches to ensure that the correct patients are targeted.

The Accelerated Access Collaborative works to support quicker uptake by the NHS of new drugs and technologies which have been proven to be effective.

The patients identified as potentially being severely asthmatic are tested using a relatively new device called a FeNO machine. This machine measures exhaled nitric oxide and a high level indicates the likelihood that there is inflammation of the lungs which could indicate severe asthma. Patients are then assessed by a specialist team for possible treatment with new biologics which have proven successful in managing this condition.

Please let me know if you would like more information on any of these topics.

Julia Bate

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