

Working with the North West Coast NHS Innovation Agency September 2020

On 2nd September, members of our Science and Health and Wellbeing Groups were treated to a Virtual Showcase of new technologies presented via the NHS Innovation Agency. We have received face to face presentations previously at the Science Group, but of course Covid-19 prevents this from happening at present.

There were three presentations and then towards the end, the group was split down into three smaller ones to have question and answer sessions with the presenters.

The first one was called **Brain in Hand** <https://braininhand.co.uk/> which is an App to assist people who have autism. It provides support digitally to help with anxiety and decision making which can be a problem for people with this problem.

The second was **PR in VR** and **VScan** – This system provides diagnostic tests at home or in the community instead of the patient having to go to hospital. A device which provides scans of various parts of the body but is only roughly the size of a mobile phone was demonstrated. A copy of the scan is then sent electronically to the patient's GP or hospital consultant for review. It is hoped that this will provide much faster access to testing in the future.

The last was **Xploro** <https://xploro.health/>. It is a health information platform for children undergoing cancer treatment which provides information in a child-friendly manner as to what will happen during the course of treatment. The viewers felt that this would be popular with adults facing other hospital procedures as well.

Adverse Drug Reaction Reporting

On the 8th September I took part in a virtual workshop relating to the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Authority (MHRA) Yellow Card Scheme. This is the system whereby healthcare professionals and patients are able to report an adverse reaction to any medication or a fault found with a medical device. The plan is that the MHRA will update the reporting system taking into account the views of patients as well as healthcare professionals on how to simplify the reporting process and also to tie it in with GP, hospital and community pharmacy patient record systems. I have volunteered to be part of a working group to assist in this project.

I would also encourage anyone who experiences side-effects from their medication, particularly a fairly new product on the market, or a problem with a medical device, to report this via the Yellow Card Scheme (<https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/>).

The September Zoom meeting of the Patient Participation and Involvement Group hosted by the North West Coast NHS Innovation Agency, saw two new presentations by SMES (Small and Medium Enterprises) about their technological innovations as well as brief updates on two of the topics from the August meeting. The new products presented were:

1. **Salaso.** (<https://salaso.com/>). This is an online platform currently offering physiotherapy treatment videos. The idea is that the treatment provider creates an exercise regime for the patient who then accesses it via this website. There is also an opportunity for the patient to feedback to the therapist and even upload videos of their progress.
2. **Yellow Bracelet.** (<https://yellowbracelet.co.uk/>). This is a device that can ensure that people who either have a Care Package provided by a local authority or private company, or those who have a pre-existing medical condition requiring medication, do not experience any unnecessary overnight stays in hospital when instead they should be looked after by their chosen care provider, at home, or in a less acute setting such as a care home. The patient's details are stored on the wrist band via a QR scannable code. This can be read by healthcare professionals enabling them to facilitate early discharge from an acute setting back to their previous provider.

Julia Bate
September 2020