

Wellbeing Group May 2021

The May meeting of the Patient and Public Involvement Senate of the NHS Northwest Innovation Agency welcomed presentations from three speakers.

1. Ear4You. This is a system still being developed to provide support for people with addictions and other mental health issues. The idea is that a headset is provided to an individual in need of support, and this person will be able to play simulated games with other users of the service. The theory is that this provides distraction to the user, by causing them to become involved in an alternative pastime. The intention is to also provide verbal interaction with someone to help the vulnerable person cope with their issues.
2. Snorgo. This is a device designed to reduce snoring. It comprises a device placed in the mouth between the lips and the teeth, which the 'patient' uses to exercise the muscles surrounding the pharynx as demonstrated in the videos below:

https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com/?d=youtube.com&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cueW91dHVlZS5jb20vd2FOY2g_dj1nb3dwamo2VlJvdw==&i=NjA0Nzc4NjMzMmI5MDAwZTg3MGJiMjA4&t=RzNLRXNaMzBvRFNkSEt5dXRxTUZkMEZLaG5VZkhOQmdUdUU0VXRNY3NkZz0=&h=70aea125ea8b4737a9d1d93cd5911e90

https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com/?d=youtube.com&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cueW91dHVlZS5jb20vd2FOY2g_dj01SXRiQ1RnSGhwSQ==&i=NjA0Nzc4NjMzMmI5MDAwZTg3MGJiMjA4&t=NFRXaTVsQ1IUTGNzMHQvQlc2YXBDb05neDAzZVBoeWRqYUZsZ20wTE41Zz0=&h=70aea125ea8b4737a9d1d93cd5911e90

3. The final talk was by the Digital Inclusion Lead for Cheshire and Merseyside whose task is to make access to digital health-related services available to all, and the purpose of her presentation was to seek a patient representative to attend the meetings between local NHS Agencies to contribute the patient perspective on this.

The Patient Safety Ambassadors Group also met this month. The patient safety work is now restarting in earnest, and today we were told about work being done in two areas, one being about improving maternity and neonatal safety, and the other one medication safety.

The work on maternity and neonatal services relates to the setting of an aim to reduce nationally the rate of pre-term births from 8% to 6% and to reduce the rate of stillbirths, neonatal deaths and brain injuries occurring or soon after birth by 50% by 2025.

The medication safety work aims to increase medication safety in care homes, and to attempt to find ways of reducing the long-term use of opioid-based painkillers.

Other projects are also coming on stream, including the setting up of a working group to review adult ADHD management.

There was a separate meeting later in the month during which a representative from Cernertec Ltd. explained about the development of a lateral flow blood test for the detection of Paracetamol overdose and the resultant potential changes in liver enzymes which would indicate Paracetamol toxicity. This would enable patients to be treated more quickly than can be achieved using conventional hospital laboratory testing. The system is however in its infancy and is not expected to be marketed for about 18 months.

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