

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

The March meeting of the Patient and Public Involvement Senate of the Innovation Agency received three interesting presentations which are described below.

1. Salaso. (<https://salaso.com/>). This company is in the process of developing a new App for the management of back pain, and in February the group were asked to comment on the way that the information was presented with the aim of ensuring that the App is 'user-friendly'. This month, the draft version of the App and the information sheets provided to the group were discussed and suggestions made on how their presentation could be improved.
2. A representative from the SME (small and medium enterprise) Moodglue (<https://www.moodglue.com/>) presented about their App which is in development which is aimed at creating an intuitive chatbot which can be used to assist people with mental health problems, but should be able to learn from dialogue as opposed to most chatbots which are only capable of following prescribed algorithms.
3. A lady from the Innovation Agency presented on a pathway that is being developed for clinicians for the management of patients who potentially will require an endoscopic procedure. The group gave feedback on the draft presented.
4. There was a brief presentation by Debbie Parkinson who is the Patient and Public Involvement lead for the Innovation on the drafted version of the HEAT tool which has been created to produce a documented means of managing health inequalities in the region. Again, input was requested from the group before the document is finalised.

The Patient Safety Ambassadors met later in the month with the theme being Medication Safety. Two separate workstreams were shared.

1. Work is to commence on a project relating to pain management with the aim of reducing the prescribing of opiates such as Codeine and Morphine, as the drugs eventually become ineffective for chronic pain, but can lead to dependency. Support would be offered to patients to encourage withdrawal where they have become dependent on the medication.
2. Medication Reviews. The purpose of medication reviews is to increase patient understanding of the reasons for the prescribing of their medication, to ensure the safety and efficacy of the treatment with minimization of side-effects.

Contact Julia at thebates@blueyonder.co.uk if you would like to know more about this work.