

## **Working with the NHS Northwest Innovation Agency January and February 2023**

The January meeting of the Patient and Public involvement Senate was dedicated to examining the NHS Innovation Agency Website with a view to improving it by making it more user-friendly and accessible. More work needs to be done over the next couple of months in order to achieve this goal.

There were two presentations at the February meeting. The first one was about brain and body training for pain relief.

The speaker demonstrated how the App, through the use of an avatar overlay, patients can compare and improve the quality of their movements without supervision by a physiotherapist. It shows movement in three planes. It is able to create individualised exercises for patients.

[https://postureinmind.co.uk/rehabilitation\\_with\\_recovery](https://postureinmind.co.uk/rehabilitation_with_recovery)

The second presentation was from someone who is setting up a system whereby people who are able to work as carers for people in their own homes can be introduced to those needing care. The carers would be self-employed, therefore the need for the employer or person needing care to deduct tax and National Insurance from the carers would be removed. There was a discussion around how the carers would meet the requisite standards, the need for proof of DBS checks etc. would have to be considered.

<https://independentcarers.youcanbook.me/>

The Patient Safety Ambassadors did not meet in January. In February they reviewed a questionnaire that will be used for patients who have participated in a Flu Test and Treat Pilot Programme. This programme has been trialled on the Wirral and in Yorkshire and involves GP practices contacting patients who would be at risk of more serious illness if they contracted flu, to ascertain if they would like to register for the project. If they do develop flu-like symptoms, they are advised to notify the practice. They will then be provided with a test kit similar to that used for Covid-19 and if the result is positive, antiviral treatments could be offered. The questionnaire is to determine how well the process worked from the patients' point of view, so that if necessary, improvements could be made in the future.

Julia Bate

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