

Supporting care homes during a pandemic

How Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust's Frailty Team supported care homes to minimise ED attendances and hospitalisations.



Imperial College Healthcare
NHS Trust



Key results

87%

ED avoidance

144

Potential bed days saved

92%

Patient adherence

£2,434

Estimated cost savings
per patient



Challenges

1

Limited clinical support, causing overreliance on emergency services

As is common across England, lack of support to detect and manage health problems with residential care home residents results in a high utilisation of emergency services.^{1,2}

2

Lack of contextual data, leading to higher likelihood of hospital admission

Assessing care home residents in the ED is challenging due to likelihood of multiple interacting comorbidities. This led to 70% of patients being admitted to hospital where they stayed for an average of 6 days.³

3

Advanced frailty, meaning greater vulnerability to COVID-19 with care home residents

Given the complex medical issues with this patient population, hospital transfer of care home residents carries increased risk of exposure to COVID-19.⁴

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust at a glance

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust provides acute and specialist healthcare in north-west London for around a million and a half people every year. Imperial has a rich heritage and an ambitious vision for the future of its patients and local communities.

The trust's care home liaison team, known as the Frailty Team, works directly with 26 care homes within the region to provide support, education and expertise to care home staff to ensure their residents are kept safe, well and out of hospital.



1. Health Foundation and Nuffield Trust Research (2015) Quality Watch: Focus on hospital admissions from care homes. London, The Health Foundation.
 2. The Health Foundation Improvement Analytics Unit Report (2019) Emergency admissions from hospital form care homes: how often and what for? London, The Health Foundation.
 3. Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust Frailty Service data
 4. British Geriatrics Society Good Practice Guide (2020) COVID-19: Managing the COVID-19 pandemic in care homes for older people, version 3. London, British Geriatrics Society.



Solution

The Frailty Team used Current Health's solution to reduce the potential exposure of COVID-19 among care home residents and maximise hospital capacity.



Vital sign capture from care home residents

Current Health's monitoring kit was supplied to 9 residential homes where staff were shown how to use it to monitor residents that they or the Frailty Team were concerned about. The sensor device included within the kit was worn comfortably on the upper arm of residents to continuously measure their vital signs.



Clinical insight and remote assessment

Back at the hospital, the Frailty Team viewed residents' vitals data within their Care Information Exchange (CIE) health record. Using the video visit technology built-in to Current Health's platform, the Frailty Team completed remote assessments to understand symptoms and other important information not made obvious through the vitals data. The team also could advise and share best practice with care home staff about their resident's care.



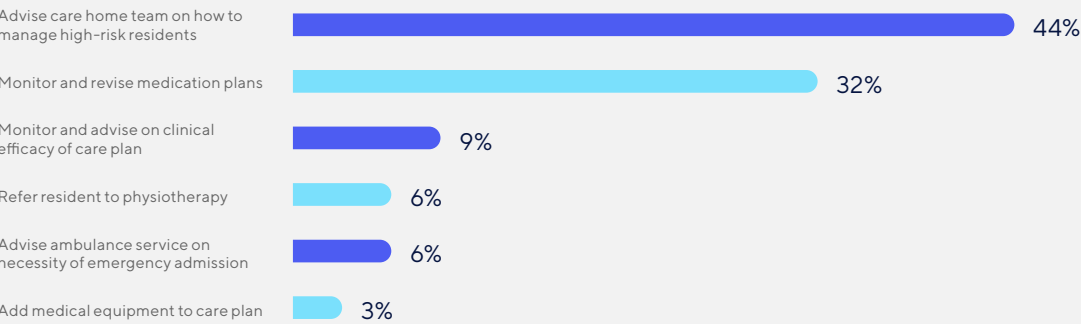
Informed decision making

Collectively, this insight helped the team to make informed decisions about resident care so timely intervention could be delivered. Furthermore, providing care in the resident's familiar surroundings helped avoid any potential stress associated with hospitalisation, helping to reduce the risk of further complications.



Results

With access to Current Health, the Frailty Team was able to take the following interventions to avoid ED admissions:



87%

Residents not admitted to the ED due to ability to intervene remotely

1.5 days

Decrease in overall care with ability to monitor residents at home

144 days

Potential bed days saved due to avoided ED attendance

92%

Patient adherence wearing Current Health device

An estimated £62.5k in cost savings in the first 3 months

Service	Estimated cost savings per patient ⁵
Ambulance conveyance to ED	£252
ED attendance	£160
Inpatient stay*	£2,022
Total cost savings	£2,434

*Based on 6 day average length of stay
5. <https://improvement.nhs.uk/resources/reference-costs/>



Looking forward

Virtual care and remote patient monitoring can enable more healthcare to be delivered outside the hospital, at the place and time of need. This is ever more critical at the present time. These services can ensure an integrated and responsive healthcare service that help people stay well longer and receive preventive treatment before the need becomes acute.

Based on this success, the trust now plans to integrate remote patient monitoring into early supported discharge pathways for patients suffering from COPD and patients recovering from COVID-19.

“Remote monitoring has allowed the Frailty Team to deliver our service to a larger number of care homes compared to delivering our service on site. That means we are able to provide more homes with the support they need to deliver the right care and manage their patients in the right place”

Kate Sendall

Frailty Clinical Programme Manager



About Current Health

Current Health enables healthcare organisations to deliver end-to-end services in the home, expanding access to high-quality, patient-centric care at a lower cost.

Our enterprise care-at-home platform can be tailored to the needs of the individual patient, supporting the full range of clinical use cases and patient acuity levels. We provide an interoperable platform that combines state of the art technology -including continuous and non-continuous monitoring, telehealth and patient engagement tools - to provide a clear window into the patient's home and enable care teams to intervene with the right patient at the right time.

For more information, visit currenthealth.com.



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