

Vivatec Press Release

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Telecare short listed in HSJ 2005 Awards

The use of WristCare by the Intermediate Care Team at Rugby PCT was short listed by the Health Service Journal in the recent 2005 Awards ceremony. Out of 60 entries to the e-Technology Category, WristCare was in the top 5, and the only finalist across all categories to be based on Telecare.

The service was praised for avoiding unnecessary admissions and ensuring timely hospital discharges. The HSJ citation stated that “confidence in the WristCare system has been high in both patients and their families...and allowed the PCT Intermediate Care Team to deal with a caseload that is 20% larger”.

The service is a partnership between:

- Rugby PCT Intermediate Care, who operate the service,
- Vivatec Limited, who supply the technology and the internet infrastructure,
- Warwickshire Social Services, who funded the initial outlay and
- Rugby Borough Council Alarm Service who monitor the alarm calls.

Andrew Hall, Managing Director of Vivatec said “We are all delighted to have received such prestigious recognition. Through partnership working we have improved the preventative nature of intermediate care and also saved money.”

WristCare generates Wellness Data that describes the overall wellbeing of the patient, and delivers it to the Intermediate Care Team via a secure section of the Vivatec web site. The team has been able to identify possible crises earlier and to respond more effectively, and with more certainty. By using the Wellness Data to reduce the number of pop-in visits, the team has been able to use nursing time more productively.

One service user, Mr S was being supported by the Intermediate Care team with only remote monitoring. He would otherwise have received 3 visits per day for his 6 week care package. Staff were able to focus their time on patients that needed more active nursing.

One day, the Wellness Data showed repeated awakenings at night, and the GP was called out the next day. A prostatectomy was required and was carried out on a planned basis. This way of working prevented a significant falls risk and saved a possible emergency admission into hospital.

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Notes to Editors

1. Telecare is the use of technology to provide care at a distance.
2. The Preventative Technology Grant will provide £60m over 2 years from April 2006 for the development of Telecare services by Primary Care Trusts and Social Services Departments.
3. Rugby PCT are the first to use WristCare to support Intermediate Care.
4. The PCT started a pilot with WristCare in September 2004 and is now in mainstream use.
5. Photo stock and a copy of the Award certificate are available from Andrew Hall, as above.