

Connected care
homes trial

Healthcare



5G Case Study

Improving patient safety and GP access via 5G
enabled clinical examinations

Synopsis

West Midlands 5G (WM5G) partnered with telemedicine company, Tekihealth to explore how 5G can support the provision of GP care in care homes via the use of connected diagnostics tools.

In 2020, five residential care homes across the West Midlands set out to trial the Teki-Hub, a connected diagnostics kit that allows GPs to conduct full patient check ups and remote ward rounds.

Thanks to the high bandwidth and low latency of the 5G networks, the care solution can move far beyond the capacities of a standard video consultations, allowing the GP to assess and record clinical information in real-time via the device to a degree as accurate as an in person check-up.

This contact-free solution supported care home staff in safeguarding residents, limiting the Covid-19 infection risk, while maintaining high standards of care and continuous access and assistance of GPs.



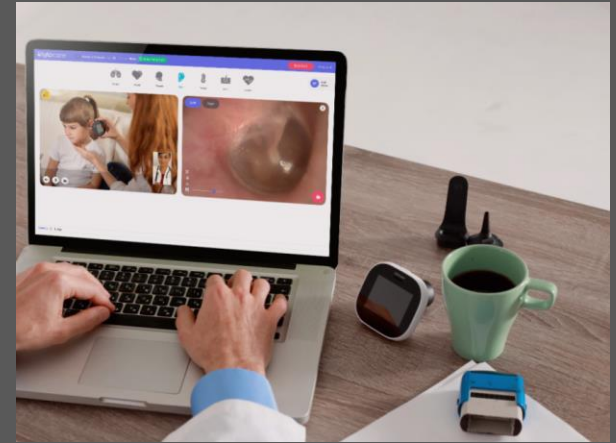
Tekihealth in action

The Teki-Hub device used in the trial provides high resolution photography, video and readings from a thermometer or otoscope (a medical device used to look into the ear) as well as portable ECG and spirometry i.e. lung function data.

This makes it possible for patients to receive a full examination and GPs to record the patient's clinical information in real-time from the device operated by the care home staff.

Using the Teki-Hub underpinned by 5G, not only means less physical contact, limiting the risk of contracting Coronavirus for both patients and GPs, but also frees up valuable travel time allowing the doctors to treat more patients both at the care homes and back at their surgery.

Due to its effectiveness in the five trial locations, local health leaders are exploring ways in which the solution could be scaled to more than 1,000 care homes in the region. 5G solutions will also provide a natural and complementary extension to the remote vital signs tracking initiatives currently funded by the NHS.





Problem

Care home residents have varied and often complex care needs, so the role of the GP is incredibly important. Access to GPs can often be limited and dependent on attending the home to undertake check ups and assessments.

GP time and resources are often at capacity with travel time between home visits limiting the number of patients that can be seen.

Covid has further aggravated this already challenging picture, highlighting the vulnerability and safeguarding needs of residents within care home settings and the value of remote monitoring to avoid limiting their access to GPs and other medical professionals.



Solution

By creating a connected remote care solution, GPs were able to remotely assess their patients while limiting the risk of Covid-19 to vulnerable patients.

Thanks to the superior speed and reliability of 5G, the solution is capable of moving far beyond a standard video-consultation allowing the clinician to assess and record clinical information about the patient's health via the connected Teki-Health device.

The technology further supported care home staff and GPs in conducting virtual ward rounds, monitoring patients with ongoing yet stable conditions and improving access to staff and patients.



Benefit

Using a 5G connected diagnostics tool, operated by care home staff, vulnerable residents from across the West Midlands are able to access contact-free treatment from GPs. The solution has helped minimise the risk from Covid-19 without compromising quality of care.

It has also maximised GP time and resource, allowing them to consult and treat more patients, reducing the time spent travelling for home visits, improving patient safety and access to care.

When solutions like these are adopted at scale, it will allow people to live independently at home for longer, stay in better health and have greater access to expert care.

“

Technologies such as the Teki-Hub are incredibly important as they help us ensure that our residents feel safe and have the best possible access to care at all times.

To have all the experience and assistance of GP at our fingertips really is a game changer.

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Marilia Correia, Manager of Eden House
Care Home

“

This savvy connected technology really is at the
forefront of general practice management.

”

Dr. Gursharan Sahota, (MBChB, MRCGP) GP, Forum
Health Centre, Coventry

“

5G's connected connectivity capabilities hold the power to support health and wellness across care pathways, from prevention to screening and diagnosis or emergency response.

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Adrian Smith, Health and Social Care Lead,
West Midlands 5G

Takeaways

Sustain



5G network providers must consider how they can support healthcare systems to improve connectivity in order to ensure they have the speed and capacity required to power remote care applications at scale.

Learnings



The collaboration and findings identified by WM5G, Tekihealth and the participating care homes will help significantly improve care, and the quality of life for residents and vulnerable patients. The project provides proof of concept for future trials of more complex medical procedures and assessments.

Contacts



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More info



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