Breathing easier at home:
how Inhealthcare's respiratory virtual ward is transforming NHS care

Respiratory disease – a significant healthcare challenge

With respiratory disease affecting one in five people and representing the third leading cause of death in England, the pressure on NHS resources is substantial—especially as hospital admissions for lung diseases have risen at three times the rate of all admissions over the past seven years. The economic burden is equally significant, with respiratory conditions costing the NHS an estimated £11 billion annually, nearly £5 billion of which is attributed to COPD and asthma alone [1]. In response, remote monitoring and virtual ward services are helping to shift care into the home, reducing hospital admissions and improving efficiency. NICE has supported this approach, stating that patients with acute respiratory infections can be safely cared for at home with the aid of digital platforms that provide clinicians with real-time updates on patient condition.

Setting the standard: our new and improved respiratory virtual ward

As the NHS continues to face increasing demands on hospital capacity, innovative digital solutions are essential to maintain high-quality patient care. Inhealthcare's respiratory virtual ward offers a promising approach by enabling patients with respiratory conditions to receive hospital-level care from the comfort of their own homes.

The Inhealthcare respiratory virtual ward combines clinically validated questionnaires with advanced vital signs monitoring to provide comprehensive care for patients.

Enhancing patient experience and outcomes

Patients often recover more quickly in familiar environments. The respiratory virtual ward allows individuals to stay connected with their healthcare teams while remaining at home, leading to improved satisfaction and outcomes. Patients have reported high levels of satisfaction, with North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust noting a 98% patient satisfaction rate for their virtual ward services [2].

Widening digital access

Recognising that not all patients have access to smartphones or the internet, Inhealthcare offers multiple modes of communication, including app, online portal, automated phone call, and traditional telephone options. This flexibility ensures that all patients can benefit from virtual care without facing technological barriers.

App

Online SMS & email

Automated phone call

Direct contact

Empowering patients through remote care

By using clinically validated questionnaires and advanced vital signs monitoring, the system allows healthcare providers to remotely track patient health and intervene when necessary. This approach not only enhances patient comfort but also reduces the need for hospital admissions, alleviating pressures on NHS resources.

A leading virtual ward solution

- **Clinically led:** The service combines clinically validated questionnaires with advanced vital signs monitoring to provide comprehensive care for patients.
- **Ready to deploy:** This ready-to-deploy model allows healthcare providers to implement a tried & tested solution, at speed.
- **Experts in respiratory care:** As part of the Resmed family, we've leveraged expertise in connected solutions for respiratory conditions, to deliver effective care pathways.
- **User friendly:** The pathway features a simple to answer respiratory questionnaire with user-friendly language
- **Bluetooth integration:** Bluetooth integration into the app allows for instant vital signs collection.
- **Personalised thresholds:** Healthcare providers can configure which vital signs to monitor and set thresholds at both organisational and patient levels.
- **Flexible scheduling options:** The service supports flexible scheduling options to meet clinical requirements.
- **Digital inclusivity:** our range of communication channels means patients can choose how they interact with their healthcare professional, widening access.

Alleviating hospital bed pressures

One of the significant benefits of the respiratory virtual ward is its ability to free up hospital beds. By facilitating early discharge and preventing unnecessary admissions, the system ensures that hospital resources are available for patients with more acute needs. This shift not only improves patient flow but also contributes to the overall efficiency of healthcare delivery.

Cost savings and efficiency

Implementing virtual wards has demonstrated substantial cost savings for the NHS. For instance, North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust reported saving £810,000 and freeing up 2,300 bed days within six months of launching their virtual ward, which includes respiratory care. These savings are achieved by reducing inpatient stays and optimising resource allocation, highlighting the economic viability of virtual care models.

Breathing easier at home

An intuitive clinical dashboard

Our clinical dashboard enables clinical teams to prioritise patients effectively.

Patient Details	Dates	Conditions	Frailty	Respiratory rate	Oxygen saturation	Temperature	Blood pressure	Heart rate	Fully conscious	Air or Oxygen	NEWS2	
NORTH, Test14 (Mr) **NHS No.** 725 207 2355 **Gender** Male **DOB** 01-Jan-1960	**Referral received** 24-Mar-2025 **Last submission** 24-Mar-2025 17:03	Asthma	No	24	98	37.5	120/80	70	Yes	Oxygen	4	View patient
NORTH, Test4 (Mr) **NHS No.** 659 480 9237 **Gender** Male **DOB** 01-Jan-1960	**Referral received** 24-Mar-2025 **Last submission** 24-Mar-2025 17:12	Asthma	No	25	98	37.5	120/80	70	Yes	Oxygen	5	View patient
NORTH, Test5 (Mr) **NHS No.** 604 183 2553 **Gender** Male **DOB** 01-Jan-1960	**Referral received** 24-Mar-2025 **Last submission** 24-Mar-2025 17:36	Asthma	No	25	98	37.5	120/80	70	Yes	Oxygen	5	View patient

The use of remote monitoring equipment as an adjunct to the virtual ward, increases the safety and efficiency of the service, as well as reducing the workload of the ward staff who would have to take time to make these recordings / observations.

Muzahir Tayebjee – lead consultant for virtual wards, Leeds Teaching Hospitals

Inhealthcare's respiratory virtual ward represents a significant advancement in patient-centered care, offering a scalable solution that benefits both patients and the NHS. By enabling remote monitoring and reducing the reliance on hospital admissions, this model supports the NHS in delivering efficient, cost-effective, and compassionate care.

[1] http://bit.ly/4lcZlZx

[2] http://bit.ly/4ezjeHx

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Find out more at
www.inhealthcare.co.uk