New partnership set to improve breast screening in UK first

Transforming diagnosis with digital pathology

Pages 15

Pages 18-19
Welcome to the latest issue of CONNECT, our stakeholder publication keeping key partners, Trust Members, and anyone interested in health care within Leeds and the wider City Region up to date on our work and plans for the future.

This issue of CONNECT features interactive content showcasing some of the wonderful work we are doing to integrate digital across our hospitals and the great successes we have achieved.

Our ambition is for Leeds Teaching Hospitals to be a fully digital organisation by December 2019. This is a huge challenge but one that we are making great progress towards, through the innovative work of our Digital and Informatics team in collaboration with our partners across the City.

We are one of a few leading centres in the world to be using digital pathology to transform diagnosis. This ground-breaking work is thanks to a partnership with Leica Biosystems which you can read more about on page 18.

You will also find an introduction from our Chief Digital and Information Officer Richard Corbridge who will explain our vision in more detail and show just how Leeds Teaching Hospitals is leading the way nationally with digital development.

Collectively the Leeds Digital Way will transform patient care - I do hope you enjoy this insight into the great work we are doing, and our vision and ambition for the future.

LINDA POLLARD CBE DL HON.DL CHAIR, LEEDS TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS TRUST

Transforming healthcare delivery with digital

Powering a local integrated care record for 2.8 million patients

Over 130,000 sheets of paper saved

Delivers over 50 million pieces of information every month

Accessed every 3.8 seconds

eObservations rolled across 86 adult inpatient wards

Scan4Safety saved £2.3m

Integrated with over 35 systems across health and social care

An introduction to PPM+ and Leeds Care Record

A vision for digital hospitals

How important is digital in healthcare?

New partnership set to improve breast screening in UK first

Transforming diagnosis with digital pathology

Scan4Safety - using standards to achieve our digital vision

Latest News

Contents
The ambition is for patients’ paper notes to become a thing of the past, and PPM+ is now enabling this to happen by creating a digital fabric that integrates medical records and a range of electronic forms into one place.

When a patient is admitted to hospital, information including their observations, medication and discharge information is recorded on PPM+, enabling clinical staff to manage and access a patient’s records in one place. It also provides alerts about patients who have mental health conditions or may be at risk of a fall or cardiac arrest.

A mobile app has been developed, enabling nursing staff to record observations (eOb) at the patient’s bedside directly into PPM+. This information, which includes blood pressure, heart rate and temperature, is used to calculate NEWS, or National Early Warning Score, which helps to recognise if a patient’s condition is deteriorating. In its paper format there is potential for errors, as a misread number could lead to a score which does not reflect the patient’s condition. This may lead to a delay in the interventions that the patient requires or even an increased length of stay in hospital.

Demonstrating our commitment to digital, we had one of the largest eWhiteBoard implementations in the country, with 110 installed on our wards. They integrate with PPM+, showing real-time information about each patient on the ward, including pending tasks and assessments. This allows staff to instantly get an overview of the patients on the ward and prioritise actions, which is vital in a busy hospital environment.

PPM+ has been designed to allow other clinical digital systems to be integrated. This includes Scan4Safety, which is a system we use to identify the exact location of the patient and any equipment that may have been used to treat them. We also have Leeds Care Record, a system to help make health and care information more accessible to GPs and community teams.

The innovative work of the Digital and Informatics teams to create PPM+ has been recognised in a number of national awards, including nominations in the HSJ Awards, the UK IT Industry Awards and the Technology Product Award.

Leeds Care Record enables clinical and care staff to view real-time health and care information across care providers and between different systems.

Hospital and GP patient information collectively feeds into the Leeds Care Record through a secure computer system. This brings together important information about patients who have used services provided by their GP, at a local hospital, community healthcare, social services or mental health teams.

Leeds Care Record is actively used by 5,400 health and social care professionals including all 105 GP practices in Leeds and provides integrated care for 2.2 million people.

It is enabling shared care, which has great benefits for patients in Leeds including improved communication between care providers, maintaining patient flow in hospitals and enabling the NHS and social care to work more closely for timelier hospital discharges.
There will be the new innovations too, the Forward App and Artificial Intelligence within PPM+, the details of the sequenced genome as part of cancer teams. On to newer things, things that feel like they should be simple such as; a dynamic staff rota that enables month ahead planning, and digital pathology that facilitates the workforce of Yorkshire in coming together to offer support to each other throughout the region.

This is digital in action, this is the Leeds Digital Way!

The word organum was originally used to describe the coming together of different voices and instruments in music, where the sum of the parts suddenly means so much more when they come together. For me, this is what we now have in Leeds and indeed across Yorkshire. The coming together of individual excellent parts is how the Leeds Care Record, eMeds, PPM+, Leeds Institute for Data Analytics (LIDA), GEN-Q, and so many more acronyms turn the IT that Leeds has into the digital fabric that Leeds needs.

The ambition we have for data in Leeds isn’t complex. We are a data-rich organisation, we have so many ‘parts’ of data that we can bring together in a much more meaningful way. What we need to do is adopt a new way of working with our data, we need to turn our copious amounts of data into information. This will grow the insight we have into our organisation and the patients that need us every day. Eventually, the data we have should be the trace element of the wisdom we run our business on. Music to everyone’s ears.

The finishing touch to the Leeds Digital Way though, is the most fundamental of all the elements, it is our people. The investment we make in the Digital and Informatics Team is one that supports its growth, not in size but in capability. Leeds’ partnership with CHIME and KLAS, in both cases leading the way for the NHS, is instrumental in the development of the team. Moving the team from a credible and capable information and technology team to one that is clinically led, to one that is aware that what we do is not for the benefit of the technology but for the benefit of patient care, to one that seizes the day and considers what can digital do to be the catalyst for change is the mission we all accept.

Leeds has a head start, the Leeds Improvement Method partnered with the Leeds Digital Way is how we will deliver an outstanding experience for every patient, every citizen who relies on our services and every member of staff.

Richard Corbridge, Chief Digital and Information Officer

Richard Corbridge: The Leeds Digital Way

The arrival of digital to Leeds Teaching Hospitals is new! As an organisation we have put in place good Information and Technology over the years, but now I feel we are coming to a digital crescendo. From the simple things like a fully operational trust wide staff WiFi solution, to enable our teams to be digital citizens whilst at work, and the ability to sign on securely once and maintain that sign on throughout the day no matter where the job takes them.
A vision for digital hospitals

Our vision is to be a fully digital organisation by December 2019. To see this vision, we created a Digital Ward and Pathway which apply all our innovative digital practices and lessons learnt so far into one clinical setting.

Ward L15 (vascular) and the stroke pathway were selected for this work as both were reliant on paper and keen to realise the benefits and fully immerse themselves in all things digital. Working in partnership with the Informatics Team, they have both digitally transformed their day to day work. This has included identifying all the paper forms used for patients and looking at a digital solution or whether they are really required at all. Electronic nursing documents including handover and observations are now completed digitally for every patient.

**Sarah Miller, Head of Nursing for Neurosciences said:** “The process so far has been cathartic, it has provided the opportunity to really look at documentation and a safe space to ask is this adding value to the patient journey or their care?”

The stroke team have embodied that becoming digital is not simply using a computer or turning something electronic, it is improving the process by which we deliver our care across the board. The teams were encouraged to critique the digital solutions; if something wasn’t working the digital team were accountable and took it away to be revised.

**Mr Tim Stansfield Consultant Vascular and Trauma Surgeon adds:** “The Digital Ward has given us extra momentum, provided a focus for change and unified our group in a digital approach on the ward. It is inefficient, stressful and distracting to tease out time critical information from a morass of paper notes. As healthcare becomes more complex, delivery becomes more multidisciplinary, an accessible real time platform of the patient record, in my view, is going to be crucial to patient safety.”

The Digital and Informatics team has been working closely with ward one and the rehabilitation wards who have successfully adopted electronic observations (eObs). For patients on the Heather and Bilberry rehabilitation wards who are waiting to be discharged, this information can be viewed by their GP through Leeds Care Record, enabling them to see how well they are and plan any future care around this.

Wharfedale hospital covers several different specialties which includes departments such as outpatients, two rehabilitation wards and a day surgery unit, with over 60 consultants holding clinics there. The Digital and Informatics team has been working closely with ward one and the rehabilitation wards who have successfully adopted electronic observations (eObs). For patients on the Heather and Bilberry rehabilitation wards who are waiting to be discharged, this information can be viewed by their GP through Leeds Care Record, enabling them to see how well they are and plan any future care around this.

The admin, nursing and consultant teams who work across outpatient clinics at Wharfedale have been working with the digital team to share learning on the processes that take place. This includes the patient’s journey but also what the team do to prepare for the clinic and the wider patient pathway, which can involve other clinical specialties. The extensive review of mapping the processes and actions for the outpatient department has, so far, generated 61 requirements, ranging from integrations with PPM+ to generating an electronic form to replace or enhance a current paper version.

The Digital team are now introducing the use of iPads and will be developing a scanning strategy to reduce the use of paper in the department.

**Our vision for clinical staff in our digital organisation is built from what the ward and pathway projects have been able to see.**

We are already making great progress to achieve this vision and this is testament to the work being put in by both the Digital and Informatics team and the clinical staff who are fully engaged in becoming a digital organisation.

Our ambitions for creating a digital hospital were presented to the Chair of NHS Improvement, Baroness Dido Harding, as part of a discussion led by Richard Corbridge, Chief Digital and Information Officer. Dido also heard from our Digital and Informatics team and clinical digital leaders who presented the innovative work already underway across the Trust.

**Wharfedale hospital is our exemplar site and supports the Trust’s overall vision to be a fully digital organisation. Their vision is to improve patient care and experience by enabling staff to make the best use of all available digital technologies.**

The admin, nursing and consultant teams who work across outpatient clinics at Wharfedale have been working with the digital team to share learning on the processes that take place. This includes the patient’s journey but also what the team do to prepare for the clinic and the wider patient pathway, which can involve other clinical specialties. The extensive review of mapping the processes and actions for the outpatient department has, so far, generated 61 requirements, ranging from integrations with PPM+ to generating an electronic form to replace or enhance a current paper version.

The Digital team are now introducing the use of iPads and will be developing a scanning strategy to reduce the use of paper in the department.

**Our vision for clinical staff in our digital organisation is built from what the ward and pathway projects have been able to see.**

We are already making great progress to achieve this vision and this is testament to the work being put in by both the Digital and Informatics team and the clinical staff who are fully engaged in becoming a digital organisation.

Our ambitions for creating a digital hospital were presented to the Chair of NHS Improvement, Baroness Dido Harding, as part of a discussion led by Richard Corbridge, Chief Digital and Information Officer. Dido also heard from our Digital and Informatics team and clinical digital leaders who presented the innovative work already underway across the Trust.
As you walk into the new healthcare building at Leeds General Infirmary, you register at one of the touchscreen check-ins or via the proximity setting on your mobile phone. You’re able to join the LHFT network on your phone quickly, and without the need for a user name or password because the app knows you live in Leeds.

A message on your phone tells you it’s time for your appointment. Getting there is easy. You use the hospital’s mobile app which shows you exactly where you need to go using a virtual line to follow.

Your clinician is waiting for you and has already got your notes on their iPad. You’ve been sending information from a wearable device and the doctor knows you’ve been feeling a little dizzy because you updated your records last night on your computer.

Some of our older hospital buildings do not lend themselves to the new digital age. Cables buried in thick walls, small rooms and poor layout make it difficult to upgrade our technology and adapt to new developments in patient care.

Building the Leeds Way is a unique opportunity to incorporate smart technology into healthcare design from the very beginning. It will create connections between patients and clinicians, promoting safe, modern care and making hospitals a better environment for everyone.

Building the Leeds Way is an exciting project which will pave the way for the future of hospital care in the city. These ambitious plans include transforming Leeds General Infirmary and the Leeds Children’s Hospital with new buildings and the remodelling and upgrading of services.

Building the Leeds Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.

How important is digital in healthcare?

BRUCE STEINBERG – MANAGING DIRECTOR & EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AT HIMSS INTERNATIONAL.

“The potential for digital to disrupt health is boundless, at least this is what Richard Corbridge ingrained in the entire staff of the HSE, Ireland. Richard sparked the start of a culture of staff celebrating digital and the potential it had, the fear of the unknown slowly started to melt away. By showcasing the benefits of digital from the staff and patient’s perspective we started having staff ask us about where they could innovate using digital, from small scale projects such as utilising digital for remote working and connection right the whole way through to connecting systems and genomic sequencing being added to our records. Digital innovation is now something people want to be part of, are happy to drive and are actively upskilling themselves on – all of this combines to a positive change for our organisation.”

MARIA O’LOUGHLIN, EHEALTH IRELAND - ADVISOR. MARIA O’LOUGHLIN, EHEALTH IRELAND - ADVISOR.

“How important is digital in healthcare? To support Leeds as a place, to make it happen. Leeds has the potential to be the global health data and tech capital of the world. With the NHS organisations, city council, research organisations, software vendors, third sector, and of course NHS Digital progressively working together as part of the extended Leeds digital health family, the sky is the limit. As an employer of 5,000 health data and tech staff in Leeds, we have a huge commitment to help each other along the journey.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

TOM BENWOOD, DIRECTOR OF DATA INTEGRATION AT NHS DIGITAL.

“Leeds has the potential to be the global health data and tech capital of the world! With the NHS organisations, city council, research organisations, software vendors, third sector, and of course NHS Digital progressively working together as part of the extended Leeds digital health family, the sky is the limit. As an employer of 5,000 health data and tech staff in Leeds, we have a huge commitment to support Leeds as a place, to make it happen.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.

“Full respect to Richard Corbridge and the board for the marked progress made at Leeds Teaching Hospitals. The Leeds Digital Way is making great steps to integrate information technology across all partners to meet the needs of our citizens.”

How important is digital in healthcare?

Dylan Roberts, Chief Digital and Information Officer at Leeds City Council.
The role of the Informatics Project Nurse

Gareth Edwards is a Senior Project Nurse and Clinical Safety Officer in Informatics, with over 20 years nursing experience.

As a nurse in informatics, we are able to give a voice to what fixing that computer means. For example, ensuring a clinic can run as required, or that "Betty" who has travelled from outside the Leeds area to one of our specialist clinics is still seen on time.

The first ward I worked on back in 1995, was in Beckett wing. There was one computer for the whole wing, located in the admin office. Back then if a patient needed some pain relief the only way was waiting for the doctor who could be on the other side of the hospital to come and write up the prescription. Now, instant messaging allows us to contact doctors on other sites who can access eMeds, and pain relief can be administered in moments. This is a leap forward not just for patients, but for staff delivering the care.

We are reaching a tipping point in that those delivering care have the expectation and desire for progress, and an insatiable appetite for digital. The challenge for our department is to encourage the adoption of digital and keep up with the demand.

Debbie Hale is a Senior Project Nurse and Clinical Safety Officer Informatics.

I was the Senior Project Nurse Lead for the eObservations rollout. An electronic observations system has benefits including no more hunting around for notes or charts, no illegible handwriting and the information is backed up within the system. This digital solution provides us with the visibility of patient observations across the Trust, so a specialist team at the LGI can see the observations of a patient even if they are on a ward at St James’s.

As a tool, digital stops paperwork for paperwork’s sake. Too many times, you are filling in a paper form and fill in all the boxes, only to realise that certain sections were not required. Having digital options allows the nurse’s professional evaluation to be robust and focused, and supports us in our clinical decisions.

Emma Hawtin is a Senior Project Nurse.

Digital means a change in practice and process - it is not just replacing paper with electronic, it is a transformational change.

The success that eMeds has had is down to the engagement. If you don’t get the stakeholders engaged then you are doing a change to them, not with them and it will fail.

We sought to have a true working partnership with our clinical service units. Keeping the dialogue open and offering a model that was open to the amendments and requirements of that particular ward, team and environment. We are aware that systems have limitations and it is about being honest and realistic about what they are to the user.

When we started eObervations, we looked at the documentation of the current process and identified that the average worked out to be 100 observations charts for each ward a month. If we take all common assessments that are completed on an adult ward each month, we could be looking at 700 pieces of paper per ward not including specialist assessments or care plans.

There are challenges for those that are not as computer confident as they would like to be, but that is what we, as a department are here for. Moving to digital is a challenge, but our teams in Leeds are more than willing to embrace it. Change no matter what it is will always cause challenges, but we are here and work as part of the team to help get it right for the end user.

Any change can have an impact and sometimes the smallest change can have the biggest impact on our patients. It’s about keeping patients and their safety at the forefront of what we do.

Gareth and Debbie
This combined solution from IT security firm Imprivata is said to be the first deployment of its kind outside the US.

Known across the Trust as ‘Single Sign-on’, clinicians are now able to use a secure access card to log in and use patient monitoring devices, with patient observations then automatically recorded within the electronic health record. Previously, clinical staff would be required to log in to up to nine different applications, resulting in backlogs.

In 12 months, we have been able to deliver a single sign-on solution across the entire Trust. Over 4,500 staff are using single sign-on every day and we have plans in place to get to full staff capacity of 18,000 by the end of the year.

RICHARD CORBRIDGE, CDIO

The technology helped ensure data was up to date, accurate, and correctly attributed to the patient in front of us.

JOANNE REISCHMAN, CLINIC SISTER IN THE RENAL DEPARTMENT

Once observations are logged into the patient’s health record, the data can be accessed remotely by regional multi-disciplinary teams.

As part of a transatlantic research partnership, the breast unit is pioneering the use of world-leading software that analyses screening and diagnostic images and helps identify women who may be at higher risk of developing cancer.

The software also helps assess screening and diagnostic image quality to provide data that can help develop professional skills, ultimately leading to better diagnosis and patient outcomes.

The Leeds team have signed an agreement with Mohamed Abdolell, CEO, Densitas which is backed by the research team in Leeds and Director of Breast Screening, Dr Nisha Sharma.

Breast tissue density is one of the factors that can mean a higher risk of breast cancer for women and this is currently assessed subjectively. The Densitas software will provide an automated way of recording the breast density, which will be readily available with the mammographic images and allows the clinical team to record the breast density for all women who attend for a mammogram.

The Densitas software is unique in that it can assess breast density using processed DICOM images and therefore supports prospective and retrospective research. This is a timely development which will allow the team in Leeds to collaborate with other centres to perform innovative research going forward.

DR SHARMA SAID: “This is a really exciting development for us because it has the potential to make a real difference to the quality of our screening programme and ultimately to the health outcomes of women in Leeds. I’m very pleased that the Leeds Breast Screening unit and research team have the opportunity to collaborate with Densitas. This is the foundation for future developments that will improve breast care, so it’s excellent news for women.”
How does it work?

Scan4Safety uses barcodes to track patients and products across the Trust. Every single space across all seven hospitals is now identified with a barcode which provides a location number. Similarly, all patients have a unique barcode number on their wristband, allowing clinicians to scan and link them to a location or an episode of care, enabling accurate capture of patient data across the Trust, part of the Trust’s vision to remove paper records.

What are the benefits?

By scanning a patient’s wristband and scanning the barcode on the wall near a bedside or on entry to a room, we can track a patient’s journey through the Trust, from admission, through theatre and recovery, to discharge. This information can be provided to relatives and carers relatively easily, reducing anxiety and providing reassurance. Some clinical areas are displaying this information in real time on the electronic whiteboards above nurses’ stations which is significantly saving time for the nursing teams.

Using barcoding technology to record medication and equipment also enables items to be tracked and traced which improves efficiencies, minimises wastage and improves patient safety. This innovative work has created financial benefits of over £2.3 million in Leeds and the use of paper has been reduced in several functional areas of the Trust.

How does it integrate with PPM+?

In partnership with Informatics, Scan4Safety co-developed the PPM+ mobile app which allows nurses to scan the patient wristband acting as a further electronic check on patient identification, complementing the verbal checks that already take place. This simple scan also allows staff to access the growing list of electronic forms in PPM+. Personal contact with the patient is maintained at all times, while the use of scanning provides automated checks that decrease data collection errors.

Achieving our digital vision

The next steps are to roll out the ability for all wards and departments to locate patients quickly and accurately, using electronic whiteboards or other accessible means. We’re hoping by December 2019 that this new development will be in use Trustwide.

Innovative Radio Frequency Identification chips have also been embedded in every location barcode across the Trust. In future this will mean that a scan of a barcode will not be required, and a location identifier will be accurately collected automatically, without any action required from a member of staff.

The identification and tracking of people (patients and staff), products, and places will provide us with a significant volume of information at our finger tips to make improved management decisions and efficiently allocate resources. Scan4Safety has set the foundation for a modernised Trust able to deliver improved patient care.

David Berridge, Deputy Chief Medical Officer said:

‘Scan4Safety will allow us 24/7 tracking of our patients, enabling our endoscopy, radiology and theatre teams to be as efficient as possible. It allows our clinicians to manage their patients more closely and safely, including possible contribution to the reduction of never events. Being able to perform product recalls at the touch of a button with greater reassurance is a tremendous facility. Reducing unnecessary waste and out of date stock is essential for an efficient hospital of the future and Scan4Safety is a real addition to good clinical practice.’
As one of only a handful of leading centres in the world, we are now using digital pathology to analyse tissue samples in the diagnosis of diseases like cancer, instead of traditional microscopes and glass slides. This important step is enabled by our partnership with Leica Biosystems. Our pathology team is now reporting over 99% of cases using digital pathology, only reverting to microscopes for exceptional cases.

Doctors are helping translate technology from research and teaching into clinical practice, paving the way for experts in different parts of the NHS and even across the world. This enables them to share expert opinions and collaborate on complex or rare cases without the risk and delay of sending fragile, irreplaceable glass slides in packages.

Dr Darren Treanor, Consultant Histopathologist and Digital Pathology Clinical Lead said: “The positive feedback on digital from our pathologists has been overwhelming. They have transitioned to using digital pathology over traditional microscopy, commenting on the speed and accuracy of tissue measurements, as well as faster access to slides.”

Dr Bethany Williams is the first digital pathology academic fellow in the world. She has been working on the project to transition the Trust to digital breast cancer diagnosis. She said: “With 45 pathology consultants in our hospitals examining 80,000 tissue samples each year, digital pathology is providing us with huge potential for greater efficiency by using, storing and sharing electronic images instead of glass slides.”

Our team has also developed the biggest digital pathology website in the world: www.virtualpathology.leeds.ac.uk with over 121,805 visits per year and lots of educational material.
Leeds is first NHS Trust in England to launch ReSPECT

Leeds is proud to be the first NHS Trust to implement a new digital way to ensure patients’ wishes about their care in an emergency are known, shared and respected.

Clinical teams in our hospitals now have digital access to the agreed outcomes of conversations about vital aspects of care, including resuscitation and end of life care, as well as treatment preferences in an emergency.

The Recommended Summary Plan for Emergency Care and Treatment (ReSPECT) is an emergency care plan to support conversations and record recommendations arising from discussion between clinician and patient or those close to the patient.

Encouraging open and honest conversations between clinicians and patients about difficult decisions is important and we need to ensure that, in the event of sudden clinical deterioration, patients’ wishes are complied with. Often this involves patients who have long-term or life-limiting medical conditions, but a ReSPECT plan can be completed for any patient.

Patient’s wishes are currently recorded in many different ways, for example DNACPR forms, handwritten in paper notes and others in clinical letters. This means preferences are not all recorded in one place and may be difficult for clinicians to find in the event of an emergency.

The new ReSPECT form is part of patient’s electronic health record and records information on advanced care decisions and preferences, in addition to information about advance decisions to refuse treatment, lasting power of attorney and patient and carers insight into their condition. This data is easily accessible by all clinicians at Leeds Teaching Hospitals and, crucially, by other healthcare organisations in Yorkshire.

As a doctor, I feel much more reassured that the difficult discussions I have with my patients are recorded and shared correctly and they will be looked at and taken into account when the time comes. It also means that if I’m looking after a patient I’ve not met before, who can’t tell me what they want, I can be more confident I am acting in accordance with their wishes.

Dr Adam Hurlow, Consultant in Palliative Care

DigiBete lands at Leeds Children’s Hospital

DigiBete is an online platform, providing much needed support for parents of children with Type 1 Diabetes.

As a parent-led initiative, it has been designed and created by Maddie and Rob Julian whose son Otis is a patient at Leeds Children’s Hospital with Type 1 Diabetes. DigiBete uses digital technology and social media to deliver a video platform that complements the expert training that hospital teams already give to diagnosed families, and provides additional support and information. Consequently, schools, extended family and the child’s wider community can also access the vital training in order to keep children safe and ensure that their condition is better understood and managed effectively.

The web platform was developed in close partnership with the Leeds Children’s Hospital diabetes team.

Dr Fiona Campbell, Clinical Chair at DigiBete and Consultant Paediatric Diabetologist at Leeds Children’s Hospital said: “There are almost 500 children and young people in Leeds with Type 1 Diabetes and we are already seeing the benefits of this vital extra resource of support for those people, outside of the hospital or clinic. Educating people to manage their condition successfully is key to the work we do and DigiBete’s unique, positive approach is helping many local children and young people overcome the obstacles of Type 1 Diabetes.”

DigiBete.org has received valuable funding from our charity partner Leeds Cares. The management team are highly experienced in many aspects of the condition, from managing the condition as parents through to professional specialism and expertise within the field. Working closely alongside Maddie, Rob, and Dr Fiona Campbell are Caroline Mullier, a Children’s Diabetes Nurse Specialist, and Frances Hanson who is the lead Diabetes Dietitian at Leeds Children’s Hospital. Frances is a Diabetes UK Clinical Champion and is using this role to contribute to the dynamic DigiBete Team. DigiBete is set to go from strength to strength with innovation underway and plans to add more resources.
Electronic dashboards have launched on the staff intranet and in the waiting areas of the Emergency Departments at Leeds General Infirmary and St James’s University Hospital. They take a direct feed from the data rich Symphony system used in both departments and display real time data of how many patients are in the department and how long the wait is to see a clinician.

This is set to complement the existing patient facing campaigns to raise awareness of the process when coming into the Emergency Department, particularly in busy times during winter. The future development of this patient engagement is to provide wider advertisement of local health services and agencies, such as late-night pharmacies, dentists and social care contacts.

Digital Pharmacy is now hospital wide

eMeds is the Leeds Teaching Hospitals electronic pharmacy prescribing software. The Trust has completed the implementation of the eMeds solution which means that 112 wards and 48 theatres can now prescribe and dispense drugs utilising a digital solution that almost completely removes the risk of medication errors and adverse effects through allergies. Our hospitals prescribe around 20,000 doses a day electronically, removing the risk of lost paper impacting on the delivery of healthcare. eMeds has now been rolled out across Leeds Children’s Hospital which means that it is now being used across all areas of our hospitals.

Forward app improves hospital communication

Forward is a smartphone app that has been designed to reduce the use of unreliable pagers and landlines for clinical staff. It is now being piloted in Leeds with great success.

This app provides a secure communication facility, enabling clinicians to share information, have real time, virtual conversations and the opportunity to seek expertise and guidance from consultants who may not otherwise be immediately available.

JACKIE WHITTLE, CHIEF CLINICAL INFORMATION OFFICER

Unlike WhatsApp, Forward is compliant with NHS data security rules and meets General Medical Council confidentiality standards.

Charlotte and Richard who led the work

Celebrating the roll out of eMeds at Leeds Children’s Hospital

Sarah Wilkinson, Chief Executive of NHS Digital, met with Richard Corbridge, Chief Digital and Information Officer, and Linda Pollard, Trust Chair, to discuss the development of the Leeds Digital Way. Sarah was very complementary about our achievements with PPM+ and our progress in digital more generally, and she also discussed the future opportunities the partnership between the Trust and NHS Digital can bring to healthcare in Leeds.

NHS Digital Chief Executive praises PPM+

Sarab Wilkinson, Chief Executive of NHS Digital, met with Richard Corbridge, Chief Digital and Information Officer, and Linda Pollard, Trust Chair, to discuss the development of the Leeds Digital Way. Sarah was very complementary about our achievements with PPM+ and our progress in digital more generally, and she also discussed the future opportunities the partnership between the Trust and NHS Digital can bring to healthcare in Leeds.

Digital Pharmacy

Sarah, centre, hearing about the Leeds Digital Way
Our vision is for Leeds Teaching Hospitals to be a fully digital organisation by December 2019. Meet some of our digital champions:

Follow our social media pages to find out our latest news.

Facebook: Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Twitter: @LeedsHospitals
Email: communications.lth@nhs.net
www.leedsth.nhs.uk