

Reference Number: FOI202223/345
From: Private Individual
Date: 11 October 2022
Subject: Use of remote monitoring and virtual wards

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act regarding use of remote monitoring and virtual wards.

*Virtual wards allow patients to be treated in their own homes rather than in hospital. In a virtual ward, support can include remote monitoring using apps, technology platforms, wearables and medical devices and face to face care from multi-disciplinary teams based in the community.

Q1 Does your organisation use remote monitoring tools to help patients to manage their health and care at home?

A1 Yes, we currently use two devices used for remote monitoring:

Nuovair- This is a digital spirometer use by cystic fibrosis patients to measure lung function primarily during the COVID-19 pandemic when attendance to hospital was restricted. The Data is used by the team in-hospital to direct care along with clinic assessment. The patient does not use the date to manage their own health.

Isansys- This is a remote monitoring device currently being trialled with our community team to monitor patients being cared for at home. It records vital signs such as heart rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturations. The data is fed back to the community team who use it retrospectively to make decisions on management.

Q2 Has your organisation extended the use of remote monitoring to utilise solutions to proactively manage the next steps of care for patients being treated in the home such as using a task management system/virtual ward*?

A2 The use of the Isansys device is being trialled in a pilot hybrid-virtual ward with nursing staff and other health care professional delivering care at home supported by remote monitoring.

Q3 If yes, does the organisation use any suppliers to support the process of providing virtual wards?
a. Please state the name of the supplier/supplier's.
b. Please provide the annual cost for the above supplier contract for the financial year 20/21 to 21/22 (April 2021- March 2022)

A3 No, this is a hospital-based hybrid virtual ward.

Q4 Does the organisation have a dedicated in-house virtual ward team?
a. If yes, is this made up of existing resource or additional capacity?

A4 No

Q5 Could you please provide the name and job title of the person who is responsible for the management of virtual wards?

A5 Direct management has not been established as yet as this is a pilot project.

Q6 Please complete the table for each of the specialities listed:

A6

Speciality	What specialties are Virtual Wards currently implemented in? (tick for yes)	If yes, How many virtual "beds" are currently operating in total and in each speciality?	Please state the number of beds the organisation has in total and for each speciality?
Total			
Mental Health			
Cardiology			
Dermatology			
Diabetes			
Endocrinology			
Gastroenterology			
Geriatric Medicine			
Gynaecology			
Hepatology			
Neurology			
Oncology			
Ophthalmology			
Palliative medicine			
Paediatrics services			
Physiotherapy			
Rehabilitation			
Renal medicine			
Respiratory	Yes	Information not held – this is to be established depending on nursing recruitment over the winter	Information not held – this is to be established depending on nursing recruitment over the winter
Rheumatology			
Colorectal surgery			
Breast Surgery Service			
Ear, Nose and			

Throat			
General Surgery			
Orthopaedics and Trauma			
Orthoptics			
Pain management			
Plastic surgery			
Thoracic medicine			
Urology			
Vascular surgery			
Audiology Service			
Other- Please state			