



HEALTH BUSINESS AWARDS 2008

Recognising excellence in the provision of first class NHS Facilities

Arsenal's Emirates Stadium
Thursday 11th December

Telehealth Award

sponsored by Intel Health

Telehealth can provide benefits to patients, healthcare providers, and to community projects. This award will recognise the organisation that demonstrates the most innovative use of use of information and communication technology (ICT) to deliver health services, expertise and information over distance.

WINNER

Somerset Primary Care NHS Trust and Broomwell Healthwatch

For the past two years Bridgewater Community Hospital has been utilising an NHS accredited national cardiology reporting service to enhance diagnostic support to the Nurse Practitioners staffing the Minor Injury Unit.

The clinical benefit of the reporting service was demonstrated during the pilot, when a patient who had fallen presented with a closed fracture of the distal radius and ulna. The nurse practitioner identified bradycardia, and the subsequent ECG showed complete heart block. This patient was transferred to the acute trust's coronary care unit for urgent pacing, and his displaced fractured radius and ulna were repaired when he was clinically stable.

The use of this service has resulted in 70% of patients being managed locally, reducing pressure on the emergency department and the ambulance service. Importantly the use of this service has enhanced diagnostic support and helped provide robust risk management, pre-empting some of Lord Darzi's recommendations on local diagnostics.

COMMENDED

Lancashire and South Cumbria Cardiac Network/NHS North West - Telemetric ECG Pilot and Broomwell Healthwatch

NHS North West's detailed examination of Cardiac Telemedicine revealed that in Lancashire practices, the evaluation of telemetric ECG equipment resulted in some patients avoiding a visit to A&E, and, more commonly, provided an increase in quality of patient information if the patient does go to hospital. IPSOS MORI were commissioned to provide in depth research into the pilot, which will be of value to other trusts as they adopt telemedicine.