Transforming healthcare with consumer technology and the cloud

Smart devices have changed the way people communicate, shop, watch TV, and secure their homes. Now Digital Healthcare Management is using the same consumer technology to change the way people monitor their health. Its mobile apps and managed health kits are set to empower patients and save the NHS millions of pounds.

The CEO of Digital Healthcare Management, Mandy Hayward, has worked in health and social care for more than 30 years. "My experience has made me passionate about improving outcomes for both patients and clinicians," says Hayward. "That’s why I wanted to take advantage of the capabilities of smart devices to let people monitor their health from the comfort of their own homes."

Research led her to discover Vivify Health, a US provider of remote patient monitoring solutions. Vivify offers more than 90 care plans that let patients of all ages monitor a range of low-, medium-, and high-risk health conditions.

Vivify solutions are used by around 700 hospitals in the US. Consistently high rates of patient satisfaction are reported, along with significant reductions in hospital re-admissions and routine clinic visits.

A UK first in remote patient monitoring

Digital Healthcare Management is the first UK reseller of Vivify remote patient monitoring solutions. To store the data that’s generated by them, the company has partnered with UKCloud.

“When we looked at cloud providers, UKCloud was the one that came up with everything we needed," says Hayward. “Using the UKCloud platform gives the UK healthcare community reassurance: they know that sensitive patient data will be stored in a secure environment that’s accredited to NHS Digital standards.”

Depending on the health condition that needs monitoring, a patient may use a smartphone app or a managed health kit. The kits include a care plan pre-loaded onto a 4G tablet and one or more health devices aligned with their condition.

“Everything is designed to be as easy as possible to use," says Hayward. “People can load the apps onto their own phones; while the managed health kits arrive ready to use out of the box. And because the health devices included in the kits – such as blood pressure monitors and weighing scales – are Bluetooth® enabled, data is uploaded automatically. Patients avoid the chore of rekeying readings and there’s no risk of them introducing errors.

Saving money, improving health, unblocking beds

The NHS is under constant pressure to control costs, yet faces an explosion in illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. Enabling patients to monitor these and other chronic conditions at home offers a cost-effective alternative to regular clinic appointments and home visits.

The frequent rate of monitoring enabled by the Digital Healthcare Management solutions can even provide early detection of an episode, for example, identifying a rise in blood pressure that could indicate the risk of an imminent heart attack.
The data generated by the monitoring solutions is integrated with a patient’s existing records and provided to the clinician via a secure online portal. The clinician can assess the impact of any changes in the patient’s condition revealed by the data and take appropriate action, such as arranging a video call via the monitoring app, or making a referral.

Delayed transfer of care – when a patient is ready to leave hospital but is unable to do so – is another source of high costs for the NHS, with some estimates putting it at £800 million a year. Managed health kits can step into the breach, freeing up much needed beds and enabling patients to be discharged to convalesce safely at home.

A partnership for the long term

A London-based trial of Digital Healthcare Management solutions is on the horizon. Hayward knows she can count on UKCloud to provide any support her company needs during the trial – and beyond.

“UKCloud is approachable, professional and responsive; and its readiness to share its extensive contacts in the NHS is a real bonus,” she says. “I don’t think we could have found a better partner to support the launch of remote patient monitoring solutions into the UK healthcare market.”

About Digital Healthcare Management

Digital Healthcare Management is a provider of a complete end-to-end patient health monitoring system, enabling quality care to be delivered anywhere at low cost, using mobile consumer electronics. The technology has been proven by Vivify Health and can be used in varying patient scenarios, from low risk to chronic health conditions.

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Mandy Hayward, CEO, Digital Healthcare Management

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