A telemedical innovation enabling consultant ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgeons to deliver primary care otology advice and guidance

Overview
The speciality of ENT examines areas of the body that are usually difficult to visualise without endoscopes. Even though it is possible to see these areas, many doctors must then create a sketch of their observations for documentation.

To overcome this problem, the endoscope-i adapter and app has been developed by a team of engineers, software developers and ENT surgeons.

Using smart phone technology, endoscopic images are easily and securely captured and stored directly in the patient’s electronic health record (EHR). These images, along with the patient’s history, can be used to remotely diagnose and manage otological conditions, improving access to specialist healthcare and speeding definitive management plans.

The AHSN’s role
West Midlands AHSN funded a six-month Telescopic Mobile Referral Service pilot in 15 Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire CCG practices.

Results / impacts
During the six-month pilot:

- 53 telescopic referrals were made, powered by endoscope-i technology.
- 83% of patients referred avoided being sent to hospital.
- The cost of the teleconsultation was £50 compared to £107 for a new patient hospital consultation.
- Average response time was 48 minutes, compared to the average four-month wait for an outpatient appointment.

Use of the endoscope-i saves the cost of an outpatient referral for the commissioning group, is far more convenient for the patient, reduces unnecessary journeys, frees consultants’ clinic time, speeds diagnosis and in the long term could save millions of pounds for the NHS.

endoscope-i works with existing endoscopes and so directly enhances the equipment’s clinical benefit. The images produced are of such high definition that they can be taken by doctors in primary care and then sent on to specialists in secondary care for an expert opinion, without the patient ever having to go to hospital.

Adoption and spread
Following the successful trial funded by West Midlands AHSN, endoscope-i are in discussions with various CCGs to explore implementation of the service in a number of areas of the country and internationally.

Find out more
Chris Coulson
CEO and ENT Surgeon, endoscope-i
E: chris@endoscope-i.com

www.endoscope-i.com