

Patientrack to help NHS trusts adopt NEWS2 more quickly

Trusts draw on Patientrack e-observations technology to accelerate adoption of updated national early warning score, ahead of March 2019 deadline.

NHS hospitals using Patientrack electronic observations technology are now drawing on the system to help them to comply with a new national early warning score known as NEWS2. Central NHS bodies, which have mandated adoption, believe NEWS2 will help to improve the identification and management of sepsis and other serious conditions.

Patientrack, which has been used by NHS trusts for many years to better detect patient deterioration, as well as deadly conditions like sepsis and acute kidney injury, has already helped hospitals to improve patient safety by ensuring better adherence to early warning and escalation procedures. This has allowed staff to intervene early, with hospitals recording reductions in adverse events including cardiac arrests. NHS Fife, for example, reported a two thirds reduction in cardiac arrests in one of its busiest hospital areas only months after implementing Patientrack.

The company behind the technology is now working with NHS hospitals to accelerate the adoption of NEWS2, an updated national early warning score launched by NHS Improvement, NHS England and the Royal College of Physicians in late 2017 to replace local approaches to early warning protocols.

Acute hospital and ambulance trusts across England have now been tasked by NHS England with fully adopting NEWS2 for adult patients by March 2019, in a move intended to help hospitals to do more to spot the signs of patient deterioration earlier.

The three organisations issued a new Patient Safety Alert in April 2018, detailing how NEWS2 could help with better identification of patients likely to have sepsis, with improved scoring for patients with hypercapnic respiratory failure, and in recognising the importance of new-onset confusion or delirium.

By June 2018, trusts are expected to identify actions required to ensure they comply with trust-wide adoption of NEWS2 by the 2019 deadline.

Commenting on this mandate, Donald Kennedy, managing director at Patientrack, which has worked with trusts for a number of years to ensure effective use of the original NEWS, said: “We have started important work with our NHS customers to ensure the swift adoption of NEWS2 in their organisations. Technology has shown to be a powerful way to make it easier for healthcare professionals to consistently use early warning scores in order to identify at risk patients, and to trigger necessary interventions.

“As we continue to work with hospitals where Patientrack is already implemented, to help make their NEWS2 transition easy, we would welcome the opportunity to work with many more hospitals across the country. NEWS2 is certainly about more than activating a piece of software, and requires user acceptance to be fully adopted. But digital technology has been proven to enhance the adoption, accuracy and effectiveness of early warning scores. This is also very much about sharing best practice, and we look forward to showing how hospitals using Patientrack are making progress.”

Trusts wishing to discuss how Patientrack is already helping hospitals move to NEWS2 should contact info@patientrack.com or call +44 (0) 1749 685 238.

ENDS

Notes to editors

NEWS2 Patient Safety Alert

Further details from NHS Improvement, NHS England, and the Royal College of Physicians are available at https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/2508/Patient_Safety_Alert_-_adoption_of_NEWS2.pdf

The RCP states that NEWS2 “should not be used in children (ie aged under 16 years) or in women who are pregnant” and “may be unreliable in patients with spinal cord injury.”

About Patientrack

Patientrack helps hospitals deliver safer care – which is also more cost-effective care – by ensuring observation and assessment protocols are carried out correctly and consistently, and by automatically calculating early warning scores and alerting clinicians when interventions are needed. Through early identification of deteriorating patients, and the promoting of necessary assessments, Patientrack helps hospitals meet national and local targets for improvements in patient safety, improving patient outcomes and supporting frontline staff, while at the same time cutting costs and reducing paper. Patientrack was developed in conjunction with health professionals and its effectiveness in delivering both patient safety and cost improvements has been proven in a peer-reviewed clinical journal.

Patientrack customers in the UK include Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust, Derby Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Bolton NHS Foundation Trust, Basildon and Thurrock Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust, Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, NHS Fife, and Noble’s Hospital in the Isle of Man.

For further information please visit www.patientrack.com or follow @Patientrack on Twitter.

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