

NHS Fife extends early warning system to community hospitals and paediatrics

NHS Fife extends the use of Alcidion's Patientrack early warning technology that has helped it to transform patient safety

A technology that has helped healthcare professionals deliver a step change in patient safety will now aid many more staff working in Fife's community hospitals and paediatric services to rapidly respond to patients at risk of deterioration.

NHS Fife, the first board in Scotland to go-live with the Patientrack early warning system, announced it had used the technology to help [cut cardiac arrests by two thirds](#) in its busiest hospital areas in [2016](#).

Staff have continued to draw on the system to quickly identify their sickest patients, to capture patient observations and vital signs and to alert professionals when patients require rapid intervention. The system also helps healthcare professionals to spot deadly illnesses like sepsis early.

A new extension and renewal agreement with technology provider Alcidion for an additional five-year term, will extend the board's use of the electronic bedside monitoring system across the whole estate. Fife will build on success in its major acute hospital environments and move into rapid implementation of the solution across its community hospitals and paediatrics specialty.

Lynette Ousby, UK general manager for Alcidion, said: "NHS Fife has provided a positive story in Scotland for using technology to help enhance patient safety and patient care, and to alleviate pressure on busy staff. It's a positive step to see the board extending the reach of Patientrack to more and more staff and clinical settings.

"As other NHS boards look to developments in Fife, we hope to spread achievements further, to help tackle immediate priorities, and to help Scotland deliver on national ambitions in its Digital Health and Care Strategy."

NHS Fife is a regional hub in Scotland, serving a population of 370,000 residents. Under the expanded renewal agreement, NHS Fife will now deploy Patientrack across a minimum of ten hospitals including two main acute hospitals and a network of community and day hospitals, amounting to approximately 1,342 beds.

The technology works by ensuring that crucial observations are not missed and allows nurses to capture vital signs digitally at the bedside. Patientrack then accurately calculates the patient's early warning score and automatically calls doctors to intervene when signs of deterioration are present.

The system continues to escalate calls until patients receive an appropriate response. This has already meant that nurses no longer need to manually phone for doctors to attend, and can more effectively prioritise patients.

Alcidion group managing director Kate Quirke, said: "Our partnership with NHS Fife has seen significant patient outcome benefits including a reduction of up to two thirds in cardiac arrests in its Medical Assessment Acute Unit within the first six months of Patientrack deployment. It also facilitated the introduction of one of the most clinically relevant safety huddles in Scotland.

"We are delighted to be supporting the delivery of NHS Fife's clinical and technology strategy, as well as supporting NHS Scotland's patient safety strategies and ambitions for the use of clinical, digital and information strategies.

"Hospitals in the UK continue to innovate with Patientrack, and have also recently started to adopt a COVID-19 assessment tool in the system, designed to help professionals assess their respiratory patients and intervene early when necessary."

ENDS

Notes to editors

About Alcidion

Alcidion Ltd (ASX:ALC) has a simple purpose, that is, to make healthcare better with smart, intuitive solutions that meet the needs of hospital and allied healthcare, worldwide. Alcidion incorporates three healthcare software companies previously known as Alcidion Corporation, Patientrack and Smartpage, and MKM Health, an IT solutions and services provider. Each company brings a complementary set of products and skills that create a unique offering in the global healthcare market; solutions that support interoperability, allow communication and task management, and deliver clinical decision support at the point of care to improve patient outcomes. With over 25 years of combined healthcare experience, the Alcidion Group of companies brings together the very best in technology and market knowledge to deliver solutions that make healthcare better for everyone.

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.