

What is ITTS?

Implementing Transnational Telemedicine Solutions, or ITTS, is a European-funded project that uses international knowledge sharing to implement and assess various telemedicine projects in Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Ireland and Northern Ireland.

ITTS includes ten different telemedicine projects based around three areas:



- 1 Video-consultation**
Seeing a specialist via a video link to reduce travel and allow more frequent appointments.
- 2 Mobile self-management**
Using a mobile phone to monitor health conditions by daily symptom recording.
- 3 Home-based health services**
This covers various projects, such as joining rehabilitation classes from home and using home-based health measurement systems for daily care.

ITTS aims to:

- Improve access to health care, situating services in local communities or in patients' homes
- Encourage the use of helpful technology in everyday health care practice
- Promote knowledge sharing between countries to put previous experience and expertise in telemedicine to good use.

Further Information



Lead Partner Organisation:

Centre for Rural Health
University of Aberdeen
Centre for Health Science
Old Perth Road
INVERNESS
Scotland
IV2 3JH

Tel: +44 (0)1463 255892
Email: itts@abdn.ac.uk
Website: www.transnational-telemedicine.eu
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ITTSPROJECT
Twitter: @itts_telemed



University of Aberdeen and the University of the Highlands & Islands working in partnership

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Video-Consultation Links for Emergency Psychiatry Services in Argyll and Bute



Information for Patients

www.transnational-telemedicine.eu

Video Conferencing Links for Emergency Psychiatry Services in Argyll and Bute

The mental health service in Argyll and Bute is delivered by multi-disciplinary staff operating from community bases covering an area of 6000 square kilometers. Nearly a quarter of the population live on an island and are reliant on local ferry services, many of which do not run daily to access the mainland. The delivery of health services in these remote and rural locations, in particular in emergency care, can be particularly challenging.

Inpatient beds are provided at the Argyll and Bute Hospital in Lochgilphead, which is more than one hour's drive from the mainland towns of Oban, Campbeltown and Dunoon. Patients who are admitted to hospital are often some distance from their home.

This same issue of delivering emergency care to remote patients was addressed in Norway by using video-conferencing technology. Through the ITTS project, the Argyll and Bute mental health service has learned from the Norwegian example and will implement the use of video-linking between the psychiatric team in Lochgilphead and local teams in Oban, Mull, Islay, Campbeltown, Bute and Dunoon. Patients will be seen closer to their homes, supported by community teams, resulting in fewer unnecessary hospital admissions.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THIS NEW SERVICE?

reduced travel
less hospital admissions
community support
specialist assessment

WHY IS THIS SERVICE INVOLVED?

This service is using one of the ITTS telemedicine applications and has signed up to the project to help us evaluate this new care option. NHS Highland has approved our patient data collection plans.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

We are collecting three types of data to evaluate the service:

- 1 Questionnaire** asking about you and your experience with the service
- 2 Clinic information** looking at how often you see the doctor or other health staff
- 3 Interview** asking you about your experience, face-to-face

We will then analyse all the data collected to find out whether this new telemedicine service is useful and cost-effective, and what patients think about it. This could help determine what future health care services are offered.

You do not have to take part in the evaluation if you do not want to and your medical care and legal rights will not be affected by your choice. There is no financial incentive offered.

WHO SHOULD I CONTACT WITH ANY QUESTIONS / COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS?

Mrs Fiona Broderick
Argyll and Bute Hospital
Blarbuie Road
Lochgilphead
Argyll
PA31 8LD
Tel: 01564 604908