

8.03 Community Acute Respiratory Excellence Virtual Ward an overview of how the Respiratory Integrated Care team in Co Donegal developed an alternative to the hospital centric pathway focusing on treatable traits

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Background: CARE Community Virtual Ward as an alternative to the hospital centric pathway for individuals with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). **Methods:** Using design thinking the team redesigned existing approach to integrated care for COPD management, by utilising bespoke technology and a dashboard indicating respiratory compromise and/or deterioration in real time to inform clinical decision making. **Results:** This person centred approach focuses on education and self-management has improved **CARE Virtual Ward** offers the following:

- Remote monitoring in real-time, enabling early intervention and reducing exacerbations.
- Tailored treatment plans improve disease management and quality of life.
- CARE Virtual Ward has ensured that geography is no longer a barrier to COPD Outreach in Co Donegal. Patients requiring hospitalisation are discussed and monitored with supported discharge as soon as is appropriate using the virtual ward to support COPD Outreach to the entire county.
- This is a cost effective model of care – offering alternative virtual pathway to hospital centric model of the past.
- Efficient resource management – has improved integration of care –Hospital and community teams work together - The county is divided into networks Respiratory teams ensure most appropriate clinician provides care for the patient as close to their home as possible.

Disclosures: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.