

Partners in Patient Care: Integrated Care Clinics

Partnerships between Novartis, patient groups, the NHS, and healthcare professionals often take shape as 'joint working initiatives', where both the company and the NHS contribute financially and provide skills, knowledge, and other resources towards a common goal. When Novartis embark on a joint working project with the NHS, our common goal is to improve patient outcomes.

A key focus of Novartis' joint working is heart failure, where, although early detection is key to effective management, there are significant challenges in the identification, diagnosis, and management of heart failure in primary care. Approximately 80% of heart failure is currently diagnosed in hospital, despite around 40% of patients diagnosed with heart failure having symptoms that should have triggered earlier assessment.¹

Some joint working projects between Novartis and the NHS aim to improve the detection and treatment of heart failure in primary care through Integrated Care Clinics (ICCs). ICCs enable better coordinated and more continuous care for patients; they consist of a quality improvement programme that ensures better awareness, identification, and management of heart failure in primary care.

As part of the work of these heart failure ICCs, heart failure registries in GP practices are audited. Patients who are not currently treated in line with guidelines are invited to initial heart failure clinics led by pharmacists and practice nurses to review and optimise their treatment. Patients who require more advanced medicines optimisation are referred to a multidisciplinary team, who review patients needing specialist services prior to the referral of these patients to community heart failure specialist clinics or secondary care.

Overall, it's expected that there will be improved outcomes for patients with heart failure, with more accurate heart failure registries, more streamlined heart failure care pathways, and more patients receiving optimal treatment in line with guidelines.

By working together to find access solutions, we can transform the care given to patients. We share the NHS goal of improving treatment pathways and patient care, and firmly believe that greater collaboration with industry can support the NHS in meeting the healthcare challenges of the 21st century.

See how Integrated Care Clinics are transforming patient care across the UK in our current joint working projects: www.novartis.co.uk/partnerships/nhs/joint-working

Reference:

1. Bottle A, Kim D, Aylin P, et al. Routes to diagnosis of heart failure: observational study using linked data in England. *Heart*. 2018;104(7):600–605.