

Hospitals given free coronavirus assessment tool in Patientrack to help staff intervene early

NHS technology provider Alcidion has created a tool in its early warning software that will help nurses carry out crucial assessments designed to allow hospitals to identify coronavirus patients sooner.

An early warning technology used in dozens of NHS hospitals will now help nurses to carry out crucial assessments designed to help identify potential cases of coronavirus COVID-19.

Patientrack, which is already used by hospitals to detect deadly conditions like sepsis and acute kidney injury, will now be used by nurses to record key information for all respiratory patients, which will then immediately inform professionals if the patient needs to be tested for coronavirus.

The digital assessment tool has been designed by Alcidion, the company which provides the Patientrack system, to make it easy for nurses to assess every patient presenting to hospital with a respiratory illness.

Staff on the ward will follow a series of questions covering symptoms, the patient's circumstances and their physiological measurements, and will enter information directly into Patientrack, the system used to track observations, via a computer or mobile device.

Specific questions will be tailored to the hospital's own coronavirus assessment criteria and can be configured by the hospital to keep up with the evolving situation. Depending on the hospital's requirements, the system can then place a flag on the patient's record or automatically alert appropriate professionals like respiratory doctors and infection control teams, if answers indicate signs of coronavirus.

It will also remove the need to record this information on paper, and will make it easier for hospitals to provide more complete information to NHS England on the number of people screened, the number who test positive, and the number of people who have died.

Clinical leads will also be able to use the information internally to quickly see at a glance affected patients and their status across the hospital.

The coronavirus assessment tool is already live and in use in the NHS and is available to all hospitals using the Patientrack system.

David Proctor, the implementation consultant at Alcidion who built the initial coronavirus assessment tool, said: "This is very much about supporting early intervention and early treatment. Nurses have always used Patientrack to help identify deterioration, and to allow a swift clinical response.

"This new development is designed to help them detect coronavirus early, so that hospitals can deliver treatment sooner, move patients to intensive care faster, and get them the care they need more quickly."

Patientrack is traditionally used by staff to capture vital signs and early warning scores and to digitally record bedside observations and patient risk assessments. The system alerts staff to intervene when patients show signs of risk or deterioration.

Across the NHS many hospitals have recorded significant gains in patient safety by using the system, which has given staff visibility of their sickest patients. Measured impact has included significant reductions in cardiac arrests, mortality, lengths of stay, and admissions to intensive care.

Lynette Ousby, general manager at Alcidion, said: "We are committed to helping our NHS partners tackle coronavirus in any way we can. We are working with hospitals that use Patientrack to test and implement the coronavirus assessment tool quickly, which we will be providing free of charge

for as long as they need it. Discussions are ongoing as to how we can also adapt our wider range of technologies to respond quickly to the needs of frontline staff at this difficult time.”

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.