



Dr Michael van der Watt Chief Medical Officer and Director of Patient Safety

Our Chief Medical Officer

Innovation and future services

Our innovation in creating new models of care continues as we expand our virtual hospital to care for cardiology and respiratory patients. Specialist virtual support from our consultants will help colleagues manage patients as they move through our urgent care department, improving patient flow through our hospitals.



Virtual hospitals

Covid virtual hospital looked after >4,500 patients

Remote monitoring of vital signs with automatic uploading to virtual hospital hub, with consultant oversight.

Now planning to use experience in other conditions

- Heart failure
- COPD

System wide involvement with primary care and community care.





Virtual clinics

Pre pandemic, very few virtual clinics in operation

Now, >80% follow-up clinics are virtual and there are plans to re-instate face to face appointments for most new patient clinics

Follow-up clinics can be virtual for many conditions

Fracture clinics are increasingly virtual, with a good degree of patient satisfaction

Once EPR is in place, virtual clinics will be more efficient and tailored to specialties





From SMART (senior medics assessment, review and treatment) to VSMART

SMART program (with consultant cardiologists and respiratory physicians seeing patients directly from emergency department) suspended during pandemic

With increasing experience of virtual platforms, SMART enables specialist opinions to assist the on-call team

- Initially cardiology and respiratory patients
- Plans are to expand this to other specialties



Robotic enhancement of surgery

The two robots we purchased in 2021/22 are now being used to perform colorectal and urology surgery. The benefits to patients include speedier recovery, lower blood loss and less scarring. And we have already seen a very healthy appetite from job applicants who want to develop their clinical skills in this area. WHTHT has acquired two robots to improve our surgical outcomes.





Please watch a short film



