

£1.5M DIGITAL PHARMACY POWERED BY ROBOTS AND AI TO CREATE 30 JOBS

Submitted by: Now Healthcare Group

Wednesday, 15 August 2018

Thirty jobs are to be created through a new £1.5m digital Pharmacy opened in Liverpool, aimed at helping people living with chronic care conditions to manage their medicinal needs through artificial intelligent mobile app 'Now Patient'.

Liverpool has been highlighted as having some of the most deprived health districts in the UK, and the 'Now Patient' app (developed by Now Healthcare Group) was created to enable up to 15 million people living with long-term health conditions such as cancer, diabetes and lung disease, to get free delivery of their repeat NHS prescriptions across Liverpool (and the rest of the UK).

The NHS approved tele-Pharmacy 'super-hub' - Now Pharmacy, will be able to dispense around 500,000 prescriptions per month and will be utilising the latest robotic technology to help smooth the distribution process.

It is seen as a life-saver for those who have suffered through recent community Pharmacy cuts and have difficulty accessing their medications.

Lee Dentith, Founder and CEO of Now Healthcare Group said: "The NHS is evolving, and digital innovation is crucial to offering patients quality care and choice. 15 million people in the UK are suffering with chronic conditions, and Now Patient enables them to be empowered to manage their own healthcare needs and to reduce the strain on our country's overstretched health services. We are the first and only tele-health company in the world to have its own tele-pharmacy, which has been kitted out with the optimum robotic technology to streamline processes and service and fulfil medicines for thousands of NHS patients."

Sue Weir, CEO of Liverpool based health insurer Medicash said: "Since our investment in Now Healthcare Group last year, we've been proud to work alongside them in driving this new technology to market. This new tele-pharmacy is another first for the City of Liverpool, which not only brings new jobs with it, but will also make it easier for tens of thousands of people to get access to the repeat prescriptions they need without having to regularly take time off work to visit their doctor and collect their prescription."

Liverpool is one of the 20%* most deprived health districts in England with life expectancy 10.8* years lower for men and 7.8* years lower for women. People in one area of Liverpool are living on average 11 years less than people living just five miles away. Data from the city's ward profiles shows residents in both Church ward in Allerton and nearby Childwall have an average life expectancy of 85.3, compared to residents in Kirkdale who have an average life expectancy of 74.3.

Steve Rotherham, Metro Mayor for the Liverpool City region (who officially opened the event) said:

"I am keen to tackle the issues of health and equality and I wish all the luck to Now Pharmacy. This super-hub digital Pharmacy, with its innovative technology, is a great idea to help communities and human beings who need access to numerous medications - as it takes away the stress of obtaining repeat

prescriptions. I look forward to coming back soon to see how the facility has grown.”

NHS Chronic Care Patients can simply nominate Now Patient as their NHS pharmacy to get free delivery of their repeat prescriptions nationwide. NHG has agreed a contract with the NHS to ensure they deliver the same quality service for the whole of England. The app is free to download (available on iOS and Android). It includes smartphone-based video appointments with NHS trained GPs, medical adherence platforms to help users manage their medicine usage and repeat prescription services offering free medicine delivery.

Last year, the Now Healthcare Group became the UK’s first digital health provider to be assured by the Care Quality Commission to meet all requirements within the new enhanced digital guidelines, with no areas for improvement. Patients commented on the “great service” and stated that the GPs were “professional, knowledgeable, caring and fantastic.”

Now Patient launched onto the market in October 2017 and to date has had over 70,000 downloads. Visit www.nowpatient.com or download the app today.

*Stats from Public Health England July 2018.

Editors notes:

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