

Reducing pressure on GP practices & UEC by taking away simple UTI workload

NHS Lincolnshire CCG case study

Background

Each year, 15% (4.8 million) women in the UK suffer from a UTI, accounting for a large proportion of resources within the health system, including between 1–3% (3–10 million) of all GP appointments¹. Emergency admissions for UTIs had also steadily increased in the decade leading up to the Covid-19 pandemic, representing a higher emergency admission rate than COPD².

NHS Lincolnshire CCG programme

Healthy.io, a developer of digital diagnostic technologies, has partnered with Lincolnshire CCG to reduce simple UTI workload by empowering local pharmacies to test and treat uncomplicated UTI. The service enables women to visit their community pharmacy and, following a short consultation, receive a free Minuteful UTI test kit (aka Dip UTI) with an accompanying mobile app that uses the smartphone camera to scan and analyse the dipstick. The results are then reviewed by the pharmacist and, if appropriate, the patients will receive a supply of antibiotics. The pilot started on 6th September 2021 and includes 38 Co-op pharmacies.

Interim results

Three months into the programme with NHS Lincolnshire CCG, data have shown:



Patients: 491 women have used the Minuteful UTI service, with 98% claiming that they would have sought help from a health provider" with "NHS GP, A&E or Walk In Centre if not for the Minuteful UTI service. 98% of women who have used the service have said they would recommend it to a friend (see sample reviews below)



Pharmacists: 100% of the pharmacists surveyed would recommend other pharmacists to take part in the service, all claiming they can now help patients more than they could before

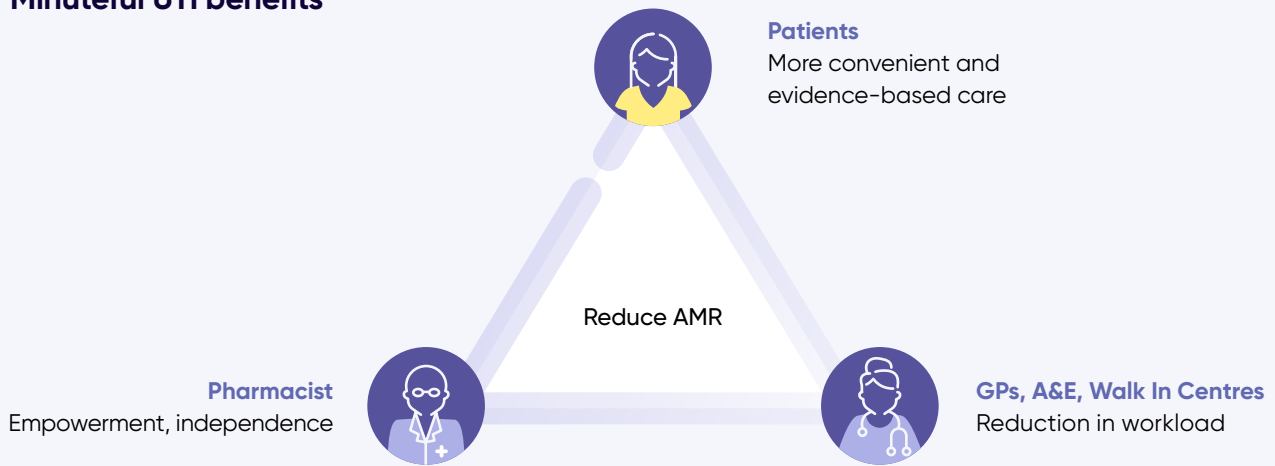


GPs: The service was highlighted in the NHS Lincolnshire CCG monthly newsletter shared with GPs, resulting in strong referral of patients from GP surgery to pharmacies. Over 30% of patients said they learned about the service following a referral from their GP surgery



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR): The York Health Economic Consultancy (YHEC) has been commissioned as an objective third party to research and quantify the impact of the Minuteful UTI service on AMR. Ahead of the research completing in 2022, Healthy.io has analysed interim programme data around patients who indicated they suffer from 2+ major symptoms of UTI. 16 out of the 111 (14%) patients with 2+ symptoms tested unlikely for UTI, potentially avoiding unnecessary antibiotic treatment.

Minute UTI benefits



1. East Midlands AHSN, Evaluation of the treatment of adult women under 65 years presenting with symptoms of uncomplicated urinary tract infections in community pharmacy using home-based urinalysis testing, July 2020. Available at: https://emahsn.org.uk/images/Digital_UTI_Pathway_Evaluation_-_Final_v270720.pdf

2. Nuffield Trust analysis of HES data. Nuffield Trust, 'Potentially preventable emergency admissions', 25 June 2021. Available at: <https://www.nuffieldtrust.org.uk/resource/potentially-preventable-emergency-hospital-admissions>

* Patient results are based on a survey sent to patients via a text message 6 days after receiving the kit. 60 patients answered the survey.

Patient reviews



It is a first class service - easy to access, easy to use and gives a quick result which in turn gives access to treatment or peace of mind.



Was grateful to not need to rely on a GP, process was simple and pharmacy helpful



The home test via the pharmacy was much easier to get quickly, test and then get antibiotics than it would be if I had gone via my doctor. Most of the time I cannot get through to my doctor by phone. I'd much rather go via the pharmacy!



I didn't know this type of service was available. I went to buy otc treatment. This was a fantastic way to treat it as it could have become much worse before I sought further medical advice

Contact

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