

# AN EXTRA PAIR OF HANDS

HOW THE WHZAN BLUE BOX IS  
TRANSFORMING CLINICAL  
ASSESSMENTS & CARE



# THE BLUE BOX...

...used to monitor the health of thousands of people in their own homes and care homes.

## Blue Box Principal Features

- Tablet Computer Hub
- Bluetooth/Wi-Fi/4G
- Digital Thermometer
- Digital Blood Pressure Monitor
- Digital ECG
- Digital Pulse Oximeter
- Digital Stethoscope
- NEWS2
- MEWS
- Soft Signs Assessment
- SBARD
- Nutrition Score
- Falls Risk Assessment
- Head Injury Assessment
- MUST
- COPD
- Significant 7
- ISTUMBLE
- Oral Health Assessment
- Change In Condition/Behaviour
- Sepsis
- COVID-19 Assessment
- And Others...



Watch the  
Blue Box  
video [here](#)

# THE ALL-IN-ONE HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOL

Since launching in 2011, the Whzan Blue Box has been adopted across a nationwide range of care settings to improve the health of vulnerable people, supporting the work of care professionals and relieving the strain on the NHS.

It's now used to monitor over 70,000 patients across the UK – delivering accurate assessments, informing crucial decision-making and protecting people at risk of deterioration.

## Case Study 1 - North Central London

The COVID-19 pandemic created a clear priority to upskill care homes' digital capability through embedding remote monitoring equipment and systems.

North Central London CCG bid for funding from NHS England to significantly scale the use of their chosen remote monitoring solution, The Whzan Blue Box, within NCL Care Homes. This would embed the use of NEWS2 as an additional tool, to detect signs of early deterioration in residents.

Whzan's Blue Box allows residents vital signs to be recorded and remotely accessed by healthcare professionals, including their GP, where clinical decisions and escalations can be made promptly.

The project has run operationally since January 2021 leading to NCL successfully implementing Whzan into over 90 care homes across all five boroughs in North London. The programme is supported by the NCL Nurse Education team, recently recognised for a national Nursing Times award.

## Impact

- Average reduction in A&E attendances of 53% after Whzan was introduced
- Average reduction in Non Elective (NEL) admissions of 67% after Whzan was introduced
- Cost of NEL admissions halved after Whzan was introduced
- Average reduction in London Ambulance Service (LAS) incidents of 44% after Whzan was introduced
- Cost of LAS incidents reduced by a third

Homes that have a CQC rating of 'Requires Improvement' were still able to make significant reductions in activity after Whzan was introduced. Home size does not appear to affect effectiveness of Whzan impact.

NCL are continuing the programme to install Whzan into a further 80 homes.

The Blue Box contains a range of Bluetooth wireless instruments connected to a tablet computer. The system enables carers and care staff to carry out a range of assessments and vital signs measurements, with results immediately recorded on the tablet computer and Whzan portal. This dramatically cuts down on admin time - allowing care staff to spend time seeing more patients in a day.

Integrations with a growing number of patient record and out-of-hours emergency services systems including Paris, Adastra, NRL, EMIS, and TPP SystemOne provide data access to doctors and healthcare professionals. This not only ensures patients receive the best-possible care, but also provides peace of mind for the person, their carers and families.

## Case Study 2 - Isle of Wight

In 2016, there were approximately 3,000 people aged 65+ living in care homes on the Isle of Wight, significantly higher as a percentage than the national average. With the number of older people in the UK set to double over the following 20 years, the quality of care being delivered in this sector was becoming increasingly important to policy makers, commissioners and providers. Whilst there had previously been scepticism about the impact that technology could have in this regard, it was becoming increasingly clear it had a big role to play.

A project was launched – the Whzan Blue Box was introduced in two residential care homes and two nursing homes on the Isle of Wight. The aim of the project included using the technology to reduce hospital admissions, prioritise and make the best use of GPs home visits and improve residents' quality of life and safety.

### Impact

The project recorded a 50% reduction in 111 calls and a 24% reduction in monthly emergency admissions. On top of this the technology had:

- Allowed for increased monitoring of residents
- Made resident's families feel better supported
- Centralised data – allowing for fast and efficient access
- Enabled staff to maintain the principles of patient-centred care
- Saved GP time through the avoidance of unnecessary visits to homes

There were no negative impacts. It's estimated that introducing the Blue Box in every care home throughout the Isle of Wight would bring about savings of just under £1m every year in reduced costs for emergency services.

Since the first Blue Box was deployed the Isle of Wight NHS have expanded use into all 65 care homes.

The positive impact of the Blue Box has been significant. We have received widespread NHS reports of significant savings in not only time delivering care but NHS resources. For a home with 30 residents, savings in clinical resources average £100,000 per year, bringing about a considerable reduction in ambulance call-outs, hospital admissions and bed days amongst patients monitored by the Blue Box, whose illness has been detected much earlier.

The system is constantly evolving – as we regularly add new functionality and features. Autumn 2021 saw us launch version 3 of the system – the second ground-up rewrite, presenting data in an even more graphical, comprehensive, and intuitive way.

## Case Study 3 - Sunderland

Following a gradual roll-out of the Whzan Blue Box in care homes in Sunderland, in 2018 the North East and North Cumbria (AHSN NENC) Well Connected Care Homes Programme commissioned a small-scale evaluation of the impact from using the technology – comparing eight homes using the Blue Box and eight that were not.

The evaluation was prompted by growing concerns about an ageing population and rising emergency admission rates. The Whzan Blue Box came with a track record of enabling a proactive, preventative approach to vulnerable care whilst also delivering significant savings in NHS resources. Over the course of a year, the evaluation would determine whether Whzan technology was bringing about similar results in Sunderland.

### Impact

- Where the Blue Box was in use, there were 192 fewer non-elective hospital admissions – bringing a saving of £601,920
- The care homes using Whzan also recorded 336 fewer A&E attendances, resulting in a cost-saving of £71,232 (A&E attendances) and £82,992 (ambulance services)
- The overall saving over the course of a year, across eight care homes caring for 230 residents was £756,144
- A wider analysis demonstrated a 49.2% reduction in hospital bed days

Since the initial deployment the NHS in the North East of England have expanded use of the Blue Box into over 100 homes.

# GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with Whzan Digital Health Directors, Keith Chessell or John Cooling.

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