

March 2025



Digitally Enhanced Care in Diverse Environments



Welcome

Welcome to our March 2025 DECIDE newsletter. The DECIDE team has established a strong presence in rapid evaluation, collaborating with policy partners and NIHR to assess technology-enabled remote monitoring in health and social care. We prioritise meaningful data collection and high-quality analysis.

Our first completed evaluation (focused on tech-enabled remote monitoring for COPD) supported NHS England's 2024/25 winter planning, and we have three further evaluations due to complete in 2025. We continue working with policy partners, including contributing to future evaluations for the DHSC-led digital NHS health checks programme.

Our team and expertise positions us well to explore the intersection of remote monitoring and broader tech-enabled care.

WHAT'S NEW

PROJECT UPDATES

THE NHS 10-YEAR PLAN

PUBLICATIONS

PRESENTATIONS/
CONFERENCES

Project Updates

Technology-enabled remote monitoring for COPD

Where is the project up to? The COPD evaluation was completed at the end of 2024, with the team awaiting comments on the final report. The literature review has been published internally, and patient-facing resources are in development. Nikki Newhouse, project lead, is scheduled to present at multiple conferences.

What has been particularly rewarding? The project's rapid turnaround has been a key achievement, ensuring timely delivery and input to the evolving landscape of tech-enabled remote monitoring to support COPD patients and services. Discussions are ongoing about whether the patient-facing resources could serve as a foundation for a broader set of materials for use in other tech-enabled remote monitoring. The parliamentary POST on virtual wards has contributed to a strong flow of outputs.

What has been most challenging? This was a particularly rapid evaluation with challenging timelines and a range of engagements across policy, practice and with patients and service users.

Remote blood pressure monitoring

Where is the project up to? The BP project is completing data collection at the final case study site, aiming to wrap up in March. Summaries have been shared with three of four GP surgery sites, and three workshops have recently taken place. Work has begun on drafting the final report.

What has been particularly rewarding? Site visits to two GP surgeries have offered valuable perspectives and highlighted shared challenges across sites. Face-to-face engagement has been crucial for capturing nuanced insights, particularly with GP receptionists. The research has also revealed subtle but important differences between sites, reinforcing the need to document less obvious findings.

What has been most challenging? Maintaining engagement with some case study sites has been difficult, requiring follow-up. Virtual research relationships have posed challenges, and regulatory factors remain a consideration. The complexity of switching systems and the involvement of multiple professionals have added further challenges.



Publications

We recently prepared an evidence briefing for a [POST note on virtual wards](#). This will be shared when published.

Our DECIDE protocol paper has also recently been accepted by NIHR Open Research – the pre-print link will be made available soon.

The NHS 10-Year Plan



Some colleagues at RAND Europe have been exploring the future of NHS research and innovation to inform the 10-Year Plan.

The summary report, launched in London by Wellcome, featured a speech by Sonja Marjanovic alongside Wellcome, Nesta and Dr Kevin Fong. A case vignette on TERM highlighted DECIDE's role, demonstrating how its insights are shared in high-profile projects. The full report is expected in March.

The summary report is available [HERE](#)

Project Updates

Adoption and spread of home sensors in social care:

Where is the project up to? Data collection continues with staff/stakeholder interviews complete in all three sites and analysis ongoing. Systems mapping is also complete for two sites, with one to complete in early April. Service user interviews are ongoing, and quantitative data analysis is underway for two sites, with work remaining in the third site (data sharing agreement to be finalised).

What has been particularly rewarding? The systems mapping exercise clarified site understanding about the role and adoption of home sensors and complemented staff interviews by identifying gaps. Integrating systems mapping into future rapid evaluations, even informally, could enhance understanding of the context in which sites are working, which is so important when interpreting findings. Dedicated time for this enables good engagement too.

What has been most challenging? Delays with a data sharing agreement at one site have stalled service user data collection. This is challenging given the deadline for the end of the evaluation is approaching; an extension may be needed. Future rapid evaluations should streamline approvals and use pre-populated templates to avoid delays.

NHS Health Check online:

Where is the project up to? We have been following the development of the programme over time and are about to start qualitative data collection with two GP practices at the end of March.

What has been particularly rewarding? It has been really interesting having the opportunity to engage with policy partners and technology developers at an early stage and observe how different perspectives inform such a complex programme.

What has been most challenging? We have been grappling with the issue of capacity and resource allocation to be able to fully capture the development of the programme and generate useful learning, especially as implementation timelines changed and flexibility was needed.

Managing Heart Failure @home:

Where is the project up to? The Managing Heart Failure project has been focused on resolving information governance issues. The aim was to secure a single agreement with NHSE covering all seven pilot sites, but the process has involved extensive back-and-forth. A resolution is expected soon.

What has been particularly rewarding? Once finalised, the agreement could serve as a template for future studies, streamlining governance processes.

What has been most challenging? Negotiating a single agreement with NHSE has been complex and time-consuming, delaying progress.

Presentations/ Conferences



- **Rewired Conference, Birmingham, 18/19 March 2025**

Presentation plus panel on the key influences on the success of technology-enabled remote monitoring pathways and how they are being implemented at scale (Sonja Marjanovic & Sara Shaw, with Breid O'Brien chairing the session).

- **Rapid Evaluation in Health Care event, 14 May 2025**

We will be contributing to several sessions for this event, which focuses on the future of digital, including a panel discussion on 'Making the most of digital: challenges and opportunities' (Sonja Marjanovic). Frances Wu will be co-chairing a workshop session on 'Navigating the digital maze: how do we evaluate rapidly and effectively?'

- **Health Services Research UK conference, Newcastle. July 2025**

DECIDE will have a good presence at HSR UK this year, with presentations on technology-enabled remote monitoring for COPD (Nikki Newhouse), remote blood pressure monitoring (Frances Wu) and Digital Health Checks (Jackie van Dael), as well as a workshop focusing on policy and practice priorities to support the sustainability, spread and scale of tech-enabled remote monitoring.

