Leicestershire Partnership **NHS**

NHS Trust

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New technology aims to keep patients safer

A £1 million innovation designed to keep patients safer has been introduced this week.

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust has issued staff at its community hospitals with electronic devices which are used to enter and record patient observations, such as temperature, pulse rate and blood pressure.

The equipment alerts staff when the measurements are due, and issues an alert if the measurements suggest the patient's condition is deteriorating.

The way the information is recorded makes it much easier to pass on details of the patient's condition to other staff at shift changes, saving time and paperwork.

NHS England's £35m Nursing Technology Fund announced LPT's bid for the scheme was successful in March this year. It is being supplied by Nervecentre Software.

The system has been introduced first at Coalville Hospital. Over the coming weeks the system will be rolled out to LPT's other in-patient medical wards – in Hinckley, Leicester city, Loughborough, Lutterworth, Market Harborough, Melton and Oakham.

Jude Smith, head of nursing for LPT's community health services, said: "We are very excited about the change.

"We have been using paper charts to record patient observations since the NHS was founded in 1948. We are now using the very latest technology to ensure

that even small signs of a patient deteriorating are detected, which will lead to an earlier intervention and a better chance of a successful outcome."

Patients will see nurses enter the data on hand-held tablet computers, or devices similar to mobile phones. The information will be available to other nurses and therapists caring for individual patients.

ENDS

Note to editors

Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust (LPT) provides a range of health and wellbeing services mainly for people living Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. The Trust serves a population of one million, has a budget in excess of £282 million and employs approximately 5,400 staff. For more information visit www.leicspart.nhs.uk.

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