NHS Wales Informatics Service, Brunel House, 2 Fitzalan Road, Cardiff, CF24 0HA 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2014

## Feedback on Aidan Fewster, student at Aberystwyth University

For the first time this year, NHS Wales Informatics Service became involved with Aberystwyth University when we proposed the development of a mobile phone app for the NHS Injectable Medicines Guide (IMG) as a possible dissertation project. The IMG is a website that that provides information on how to prepare and administer injectable drugs and is used by over 90% of NHS Trusts across the UK by nurses, doctors and pharmacists. It is a major contribution to patient safety and is recommended by the National Patient Safety Agency. We have been under pressure to develop a mobile phone app version of the website.

We supplied an outline design of the app. Aidan was one of two students to select this proposal to take forward as his dissertation. I am providing this feedback as a result of working with Aidan while he has written the software.

My contact with Aidan has been via email and he has always responded promptly to my questions and provided full and accurate answers. Aidan has had to ask us to provide access to the various data sources and I suspect the access that we have provided has not been what he would have chosen but he has always been willing to adapt to what we have provided and work with the our timescales. He has only requested minimal information so he must have worked within his own initiative to complete his work.

And then he delivered the app for us to look at. I was impressed that he had considered how we would implement the software and provided a simple means for us to load the app. Initially we had problems loading the software but Aidan researched the problem and worked with us to resolve the issue which was largely due to the age of our equipment. Implementation and support is a different skill set to development and I was impressed by his problem-solving skills and his persistence in resolving the issue.

I was bowled over by the app that he has produced; it is well beyond our outline design. He has clearly had to adapt what was essentially an iPhone design to the Android platform and he has produced a design that is very clean and easy to use. He has clearly understood the user interface design principles and I much prefer his design of the pages and the navigation from one function to another over our design.

One aspect of the app is the ability to download and update the data from the central website and to manage the security of this function. Aidan has demonstrated that he understands the security issue and has devised an update that is simple to use but downloads the complex data sets that are involved and has been able to transform the datasets into the information as it appears on the screen, matching across the keys to the each file.

I have demonstrated the app to the IMG Executive Group which consists of Pharmacists from Imperial NHS Trust and an RCN nurse expert on injectable drugs and they were very impressed and found the app intuitive and easy to use. The view was that nurses, for whom very few apps exist and so are not expert users, would find welcome this app and find it easy to navigate.

Overall we are very impressed with the way that Aidan has interacted with us and with the product that he has produced. I am sure he will have an excellent career in software if this is the path that he chooses.

Robin Burfield, Development Manager, NHS Wales Informatics Service.