NHS
Greater Glasgow and Clyde

Products and Services
Microsoft AI solutions

Industry
Health Provider

Organization Size
Large (1,000 - 9,999 employees)

NHS Glasgow and Clyde are trialling a pioneering use of AI to spot trends in patients suffering with chronic conditions such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). With each unplanned hospital trip costing in the region of £6,000, the technology can play a huge part in reducing the NHS budgets required to manage people with long term conditions.

As Dr Chris Carlin highlights, “Our hospitals are overfull, and we are struggling with resource to manage increasing numbers of hospital admissions, so we've got to look at strategies that can tackle all of this from both from the patient focus and from the health care organisation focus.”

The headline goals for the program, which trials with 400 patients, have significant aims:

• Improving patient outcomes: “COPD affects 1.2 million patients in the UK. If we’re able to predict what may happen with a patient, we can change that patients treatment so they can avoid a hospital admission.” Dr Chris Carlin, Consultant Respiratory Physician, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

• Saving the NHS money: “If we can upscale this and provide this treatment to 400 patients, would equate to an NHS cost saving of £1.2 million per year.” Dr David Lowe, Consultant Emergency Medicine, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

• Helping patients help themselves: “Equally as important is self-management: that ability for the patient to be able to monitor their own symptoms and to proactively manage their condition.” Dr David Lowe, Consultant Emergency Medicine, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Although this trial focuses on COPD, it could prove to be equally valuable to other long-term conditions such as diabetes and cancer. Dr Carlin summarises “You're able to see individual benefits, you're able to see an ability to deliver treatment to patients in a realistic fashion, you're seeing improvements in quality of life, you're seeing positive changes for the NHS and also you're seeing that you're moving towards the future vision."