

Mobile app technologies in pressure ulcer care- an evaluation in the community

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The Pressure Ulcer Prevention & Intervention Service (PUPIS) provides a clinically focused, practical approach to pressure ulcer prevention and management in the community. The multi-disciplinary team of healthcare scientists, working alongside clinical nurse specialists, have identified the potential for digital mobile technology to enhance the provision of pressure ulcer care in the community.

This Welsh government-funded rapid evaluation has facilitated collaboration with industrial and academic partners to measure the impact of two mobile apps on a wide range of users: patients, local community nursing staff, and specialists.

The project team developed a bespoke prototype iPad app to provide a digital resource for education and a monitoring tool for patients and healthcare professionals; this was evaluated by 30 users.

Three patients who were wheelchair users with existing pressure ulcers trialled the bespoke app over a 6-week period allowing them to monitor their own wounds at home. The images were reviewed by specialists, and this remote support realised efficiencies in service provision, such as a reduction in visits; it also enhanced the role of the patients in their own health management.

A second app, utilising a 3D camera, was evaluated in a rural nursing home, trialled with 12 patients, assessing its impact on the service to support a remote location through use of technology.

These pilot results demonstrate the potential impact of digital mobile technology in pressure ulcer care; specifically, the application to the posture and mobility field will be highlighted.

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