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Phew awarded Innovation Funding to develop app
to help hospitals discharge patients more effectively

Bedford-based Software Company Phew has been awarded a significant grant from the Sustainable Innovation Fund to support the development of their discharge management app, allowing a more effective discharge of hospital patients.

With the medical state of patients in hospitals constantly changing, it is difficult to provide accurate, real-time information about patients to hospital discharge teams.

The new funding from Innovate UK - which is part of a national programme to help UK business rebuild following the effects COVID-19 - will see exciting changes to Phew’s current Hospital Discharge Application that will allow healthcare professionals to see the most up-to-the-minute information about a patient’s discharge status.

This, in turn, increases bed flow, reduce patient length of stay, and will free up hospital beds more quickly. Patients who stay in hospital care for extended periods have a higher chance of becoming ill again. Therefore, timely discharge is extremely beneficial, as is bed space within a hospital.

The project will also see the integration of the discharge app - which was created by Phew in 2018 to initially meet the urgent discharge needs of Luton and Dunstable NHS Trust - with the current hospital patient administration system. This means patient details can be automatically passed to the app when patients are admitted, saving busy staff valuable time.

It will also improve the reporting capability of the app, which is a vital part of the discharge process and allows public bodies outside of the hospital the ability to securely see bed statuses within their area, while also protecting patient data.

Matthew Burgess, Managing Director of Phew, explained: “Given the growing bed pressures on hospitals with winter challenges and COVID-19, this funding to improve our Hospital Discharge App couldn’t have come at a better time.

“This investment will allow us to continue to reduce the length of time patients stay in hospital, creates a wider and simpler health system collaboration and an overall better experience for patients.

“The Discharge Management Applications has already allowed one of our existing clients to admit an extra 14,000 patients per year, saving £2 million. And this will only improve with the new developments.

“The funding also means we can continue to develop our team here at Phew, support our local economy and build the client-focused solutions that we value.”

Innovate UK Executive Chair Dr Ian Campbell said: “In these difficult times we have seen the best of British business innovation. The pandemic is not just a health emergency but one that impacts society and the economy.

“Phew, along with every initiative Innovate UK has supported through this fund, is an important step forward in driving sustainable economic development. Each one is also helping to realise the ambitions of hard-working people.”

**Note for Editors**

Innovate UK, as part of UK Research and Innovation, is investing up to £191 million to fund single and collaborative research and development projects as part of the Sustainable Innovation Fund over the next two years. The aim of these competitions is to help all sectors of the UK rebuild after the effects of COVID-19.

The Sustainable Innovation Fund is funding 1,103 projects, 1069 UK businesses and totalling over £130 million in support across the UK.