

SurgeryPod

Telehealth Solutions' **SurgeryPod** is used to maximise patient self-service in GP surgeries and (as a 'PharmacyPod') in pharmacies. It is usually sited in waiting rooms where patients find its robust, multilingual, touchscreen very easy to use. Customers who have had it for any length of time are unanimous in their comments about how it improves the efficiency of their practice(s):



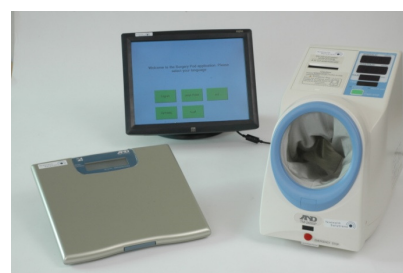
“The SurgeryPod provides a very patient-friendly way of undertaking simple health monitoring and collecting health and lifestyle information.” “[It] has been welcomed by patients, staff and GPs: all recognise the many benefits it brings... clearly a cost-effective solution as, promoted effectively and located well, it is an excellent way of collating data required by many QOF targets and enhanced services.” Rachel Stark, Practice Manager, East Quay Medical Centre, Somerset.

There is increasing realisation that this equipment can repay its cost within a month. Dr Mike Ingram, Senior Partner at the Red House in Radlett comments: “It has been particularly useful for

- Measuring blood pressure objectively before making a decision as to whether to treat or not
- Monitoring those with chronic stable hypertension who need little intervention
- Allowing those who want basic cardiovascular screening to administer this themselves
- Using self administered questionnaires to measure and monitor anxiety and depression”

Typically SurgeryPods are installed and connected directly to the local practice management system. All fields are Read-coded, so the information can be stored immediately, for example, in EMIS, SystemOne (in Sept 09) or Vision. It now also integrates with Aداstra as an OOH system; there are rapid moves to connect with all popular PMS, OOH and PCT management systems. Installation requirements include a small table and screen in the waiting area, and 13A & data sockets.

Standard protocols include new patient check, standard check, blood pressure, BMI, alcohol (including FAST/AUDIT) and PHQ9/HADS/GAD7; these are amended as QOF requirements change. The device can also be used for occupational health, health-related questionnaires and health information enquiries. The CardioPod Qrisk2 can be added as well for patients to explore how they can improve their cardiovascular risk score. Standard peripherals are simple sphygmomanometer and scales – many customers though prefer an arm-in ‘sphyg’ and a few like the laser height-measuring device too.



“The machine has proven popular with patients, young and old. Patients like the fact they can pop in at any time, some even come in at 8am for a blood pressure check. Some find they are more relaxed and get better readings. During our flu clinics we used the opportunity for some QoF point catch ups ... at times there was quite a queue of patients.” Charlotte Blyth, Practice Manager, Elizabeth Avenue, Islington.