

# Nationally Prioritised Innovations



## What we do

Support the NHS to accelerate the introduction of new treatments and diagnostics to transform care



## Why are we doing it?

Numerous reports evidence that the NHS is poor at systematically adopting proven, impactful innovations that have an evidence base and are available to use. We work to make the process of adoption more straightforward

**The Nationally Prioritised Innovations (NPI) programme aims to enable Wessex to successfully adopt more innovations faster to improve the lives of our citizens and improve the quality and efficiencies of the NHS organisations we support.**

It focuses on innovations prioritised via national programmes such as the NHS England and NHS Improvement Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) and the NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA) programme. We also deliver programmes created locally to respond to the needs of our system partners; Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), health and care providers, universities, NHS England and NHS Improvement regional teams, and local Small and Medium Enterprises.

Over **5.4 million people** in the UK live with asthma, with the NHS spending **£1.1 billion** annually on asthma treatment and management. **90%** of this cost goes directly on asthma medication, including the high prescription of steroid inhalers, yet **30%** of patients are suspected to have been misdiagnosed. There is no single test that can definitively diagnose asthma. Fractional exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO) tests facilitate more accurate asthma diagnosis by measuring nitric oxide in exhaled breath to calculate lung inflammation, leading to better treatment and outcomes for patients.

FeNO is recommended as part of the NICE asthma diagnosis guideline and is supported by the Rapid Uptake Products programme 2020/21 (delivered by the AHSN Network). FeNO is also an option for asthma diagnosis in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF). Wessex AHSN is the national programme lead for spread and adoption of FeNO.

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Exceeded trajectory for 21/22 across Wessex – **27 devices** supported, against a trajectory of 12, and **13,900 mouthpieces**, against a trajectory of **3,546**



FeNO local: supported two successful bids for Pathway Transformation Funding (PTF) in Wessex, a total value of **£179,465**



On target to reach **98.2%** for recruitment of new patient initiations onto an asthma biologic



Delivered large online toolkit to support national AAC FeNO programme with **5,328 views** (as at end Feb 2022 )



Delivered two national FeNO learning collaboratives, for **390+ people**



Supported development of two national FeNO training modules, equating to **1,354 sessions** started and **1,181 hours** of training



Over **250 downloads/listens** of the FeNO podcast (highest number of any AHSN podcast)



Actively supporting Dorset-wide implementation of FeNO in primary care



Successfully supported a PTF bid for an Asthma Biologics co-ordinator at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust

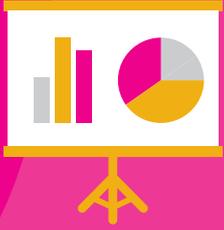


Engaged with the **12 innovators** in the 2021/22 NIA cohort, added to the Innovation Finder on the Wessex AHSN website



## What we delivered in 2021-22:

- Supported the spread of innovation identified through the national Accelerated Access Collaborative (AAC) via the Rapid Uptake Programme and the MedTech Funding Mandate
- Continued to explore new ways to deliver our programmes; for example, bringing together eight local NHS trusts for a Placental Growth Factor (PIGF) round table event in December 2021
- Led the AHSN Network's national FeNO (fractional exhaled nitric oxide, a test used in asthma diagnosis and management) AAC programme, in partnership with the AAC team and all other AHSNs
- Developed and published a comprehensive toolkit to support AHSNs, clinical colleagues and patients understand the benefits and impacts of FeNO.



## Plans for 2022-23:

- Lead and deliver the national Accelerated Access Collaborative FeNO programme on behalf of the AHSN Network for the programme's second year
- Deliver asthma biologics and FeNO testing (at a local delivery level) AAC Rapid Uptake Programmes locally, plus plan and deliver any newly announced RUPs
- Support the spread and adoption of the new technologies named on the MedTech Funding Mandate and continue to support the promotion and awareness building of the policy. Continue to support the original four technologies
- Explore and support the use of the 2021-22 NIA innovations in Wessex
- Support the development of innovation cultures that enable innovation to be adopted more readily and faster
- Continue to develop our approach to spreading innovation in Wessex, and complete a review of our current model for spread.

"I was in and out of hospital all the time, every couple of weeks and it was very frustrating because I know I've been told I have asthma, so to present at A&E and be told that it might not be asthma, that it might be something else; well, what else could it be?"

"It was only after a visit to the severe asthma centre, the first thing they did was a FeNO test. I'm not a typical asthmatic so sometimes I'll wheeze and sometimes I won't. I don't present as a typical asthmatic but after blowing into the FeNO machine I was diagnosed immediately with severe asthma and my path changed."

**Louise Reece Jones**  
Patient Participant Volunteer

▶ See the full interview at [vimeo.com/637526463](https://vimeo.com/637526463) (19:21 mins)



# About the Academic Health Science Network

Wessex Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) is one of **15 AHSNs** across England, established by NHS England in 2013 to spread innovation at pace and scale - improving health and generating economic growth.



The region's life sciences industry employs **9,000** and has a turnover of **£2.5 billion**



**10%** of the workforce in Wessex is employed in the health economy



We've supported over **250 innovations** in 2021-22, including clinicians, academics and commercial innovators



The region's population of **3 million** is served by **2\*** Integrated Care Systems  
\*Plus Salisbury and South Wilts



Our input has been attributed to the creation or safeguarding of **180.5 jobs** in the last two years



We've directly supported Wessex innovators to achieve over **£56 million** in sales, grants and investment in the last two years



Working with Wessex CRN we have brought together **4 academic/commercial bid teams** for clinical research

**8** local authorities  
**11** NHS service providers and  
**7** higher education institutions

## Want to find out more?

 [@WessexAHSN](https://twitter.com/WessexAHSN)  
[wessexahsn.org.uk](https://www.wessexahsn.org.uk)  
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