

5.11 Introduction of a New Virtual Respiratory Patient Board Meeting in Tallaght University Hospital (TUH)

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TUH has recently expanded the respiratory service in Nursing and Physiotherapy. There are 2 candidate Advanced Nurse Practitioners, 1 Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist liaison with Peamount, 1 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) Outreach team comprising of 1 Senior Physiotherapist and 1 Clinical Nurse Specialist and 3.5 respiratory Clinical Nurse Specialists. Staff are located in various sites over the main hospital campus.

This has led to a number of posts with overlapping workloads and responsibilities. It was noted that often one patient would be reviewed by three different members of staff for different aspects of care and occasionally duplication of care occurred.

To streamline the process and to prevent overlapping, a virtual respiratory patient board meeting was set up comprising of the staff above. A virtual meeting takes place twice a week to discuss all respiratory patients and ensure the appropriate person is aware of the patient and care is not being duplicated or missed. This also provides a forum to raise questions within the group and determine solutions together.

The virtual respiratory patient board meeting has improved communication between the respiratory nursing and physiotherapy teams and has led to new developments in the way patients are followed up and care is provided.