

The Whole System Demonstrator (WSD) Project on Telehealth and Telecare – an update

Professor Stanton Newman

City University London

The Whole System demonstrator project investigated the impact of Telehealth on 3,154 people with 3 chronic conditions (COPD, Heart Failure & Diabetes) and the effects of Telecare (remote & automatic monitoring of individuals' personal health & safety) on 2,600 participants. The trial was a pragmatic randomized controlled design with the General Practice being the unit randomisation. The studies conducted used both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a detailed understanding of the impact of both these forms of devices. Areas of evaluation included healthcare utilization, costs, cost effectiveness, quality of life, clinical change in diabetes, psychological well being, caregivers, the experience of recipients, their caregivers, health and social care professionals and the organizational issues in relation to the introduction of these devices.

Since the first paper outlining the design of the study was published in 2011 a further 14 papers have been published with 4 more still to be published. This talk will provide an update of the findings of the WSD study and place these into the context of other work in Telehealth and Telecare.