

Data Collection Software

What is the innovation?

Software platform which can be used to collect information on patients with a particular medical condition for the purposes of research, incorporating multiple standard/validated questionnaires and able to perform real-time analysis.

Who came up with the innovation?

Two researchers specialising in geriatric and frail people at Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (BTH) and the University of Leeds in 2015.

What problem does it solve?

The software platform allows collection of patient data using multiple separate questionnaires. The computer algorithm is able to self-populate results to the same question that appears across multiple questionnaires, and uniquely allows real-time analysis of the data as it is added (as opposed to having to process/analyse the data separately after collection of all samples).

What was the inspiration for the idea?

It was required for a specific study that had been designed for research into the frail elderly. Therefore the innovation emerged from a specific project assigned to the researchers.

How did the innovation journey start?

Medipex became aware of this innovation through our involvement with the Yorkshire & Humber Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC Y&H) as it is one of their funded projects. CLAHRC money was used to pay a software company to develop the platform, with a clause stating that all the IP resulting from the study would belong to BTH.

How was the IP protected?

The IP is in the form of copyright in the software code and potentially design of the interface.

The platform that was developed and is in use at BTH incorporates questionnaires that are relevant to their study. Currently they are using it for research purposes only, but want to commercialise the platform as it

would be useful to other research groups wanting to collect similar types of data sets with data questionnaires customised to the needs of others.

Future plans for the innovation?

The company that originally wrote the software for BTH recognised that it could be adapted for other customers. Medipex are putting a license agreement in place to facilitate this (for the source code and interface design which is the IP owned by BTH).

The benefit to other customers is that it is cheaper to license the developed, tried and tested software platform rather than to create their own one for the purposes of their study. The benefit to the Trust is a small income from the license of the platform.

Has the innovation sparked colleagues to come forward with new ideas?

Not yet, but the inventors are now aware of IP and its potential value and are now aware of Medipex and what we do.