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PRESS RELEASE

Blackpool Hospital laboratories improve patient treatment with voice recognition

PATHOLOGY staff at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust are using innovative software and technology to improve clinical care and save time and money.

Laboratory staff are using a new voice and speech recognition software called TalkingPoint, which has improved the efficiency of the reporting systems within the Trust's pathology department. This new software has improved the speed and accuracy of clinical investigations, enabling patients to receive results from any laboratory examinations, such as bodily fluids and tissues, faster.

With TalkingPoint, pathology departments can implement a combination of integrated digital dictation and speech recognition modules to best suit their departments needs. The speech recognition within this new software enables staff working within pathology at the Trust to record information via speech using a hands-free headset, saving time and money and increasing productivity.

Dr Jim Johnston, Consultant Histopathologist at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust said: "Voice Recognition has provided us with instant benefits and there is huge potential for us across the Trust using TalkingPoint. It has certainly revolutionised the way I do pathology, and I have been doing it for a long time. Despite there being some resistance to technological advancements in our sector, I see voice recognition as the future".

Just three months on from the implementation, the advantages are already being realised at Blackpool Victoria Hospital.

Commenting on the integration of this new technology, Phil Houldsworth, Laboratory Operations Manager said: "I would say reporting time using this new software is down by as much as 25%, if not more in some cases. This is a significant benefit for the patient, getting results and treatments faster, and for the hospital in the form of greater efficiencies".

The voice recognition technology converts speech directly into electronic text, improving efficiency; reducing transcription delays and costs and improving the quality and safety of patient care.



Caption: Phil Houldsworth, Laboratory Operations Manager at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust



Caption: The TalkingPoint Voice Recognition headset being used within pathology.

For further information about this Press Release, please call Chris Cunniff, Communications Officer, on 01253 303059 or email Chris.Cunniff@bfwhospitals.nhs.uk