

Why are Virtual Group Consultations important now?

These are unprecedented times in healthcare with a lot of front line, routine and planned care resources being shifted to support the COVID-19 pandemic.

As leaders in the training and implementation of face-to-face Group Consultations, we believe that now may be the time to support teams to set up and implement Virtual Group Consultations.

This will enable patients to remain connected with their healthcare team to receive the guidance, advice and additional reassurance that they will undoubtedly need at this time.

Implementing Virtual Group Consultations will support the continuous delivery of routine and planned care and connect people virtually, through these times of social isolation.

This will go some way in preventing those with chronic and long-term conditions becoming acutely unwell and putting extra pressure on an already overwhelmed system.

What does it involve?

A way to deliver routine care in groups virtually, consulting with patients who have the same or similar health condition and challenges.

Virtual Group Consultations will demonstrate most of the benefits of our face-to-face Group Consultation model:

- Support clinicians to support and deliver 1:1 routine care more efficiently for groups of patients using video technology.
- Deliver an adapted version of face-to-face Group Consultations, which still enables the delivery of routine care including clinical, lifestyle advice, prescription changes and reassurance throughout this period of social isolation.
- Led by what patients need to know about keeping well in these unsettling times, whilst getting to spend quality time virtually with their healthcare team and other patients.
- Enable patients to receive clinical and educational advice and guidance from their clinician, whilst also getting advice, input and support from other patients in the group.
- Support our NHS to keep running at this unprecedented time of crisis and help to maintain staff resilience and morale.

How will it work?

We will support you to plan and deliver Virtual Group Consultations through your existing IT platforms or identify the best platform for you.

Virtual Group Consultation Flow:

- Patients will be sent an overview of session with simple log on instructions and links.
- Sessions will last around an hour with 6 – 15 patients joining in remotely at the same time.
- Patients will have a common condition e.g. diabetes, asthma, COPD and or a similar set of clinical challenges.
- Led by a clinician. This can be a doctor, nurse, pharmacist or any other healthcare professional.
- Supported by a Group Consultations facilitator (*where you have one or we can provide e-learning support*).
- We will supply you and your team with the templates and more detailed set up and delivery guidance before you go live.

Next steps to get started

If you are interested in Virtual Group Consultations and would like more information, please contact us at info@groupconsultations.com