

New BlackBerry® Application 'Patient in your Pocket' Launched in the UK

CSC, a global leader in providing technology-enabled solutions and services, has launched a new easy-to-use application, which enables mobile healthcare professionals to access and update patient information at the point of care, using a BlackBerry® smartphone.

'Patient in your Pocket' combines several powerful features and will enable care providers to spend more time on front-line patient care as well as provide more personal safety protection for healthcare professionals working alone.

The application will allow users to:

- · receive a schedule of appointments for the day ahead
- retrieve up-to-date information about the patient's condition
- · enter new data directly into the smartphone, idictating notes or filling in forms using a 'digital' pen

The new application ensures patient confidentiality is protected through the use of smartcard log-on and strong data encryption, which means that updates and upgrades can be centrally controlled and information, such as appointments and patient details, can be sent out and received within a secure environment.

According to Andrew Spence, UK director of healthcare strategy at CSC, "Patient in your Pocket plays strongly to the Department of Health's agenda of 'doing more with less". Dr Paul Shannon, CSC's UK medical director, also agrees that introducing new mobile technology is in line with the objectives of delivering patient-centric care, as outlined in a recent NHS (National Health Service, UK) white paper.

The new application is predicted to cut costs, improve the delivery of care and patient satisfaction, reduce the cost of buying laptops and the associated risk of theft but most importantly allow rapid advice to be accessed to benefit the patient.

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