
Listening, Learning, **Transforming Together**

**Message from Professor Jann Gardner, Chief Executive
(26 September 2025, 4.05pm)**

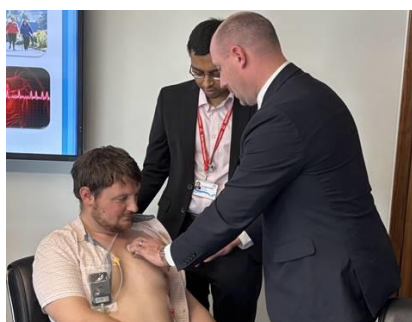
Innovation in action

This week, I had the pleasure of welcoming Health Secretary Neil Gray to the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, where he saw first-hand the impact of a pioneering innovation designed to prevent strokes and other health complications.

ECG patch monitor technology, which has been used with patients in NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde over the past two years, will help speed-up the diagnosis of atrial fibrillation, a condition that causes around one in four ischaemic strokes.

This visit, part of Scotland's first Innovation Week, marked a significant milestone for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and for patients across the country.

What began as a local innovation, supported by the West of Scotland Innovation Hub, is now being rolled out nationally through the Accelerated National Innovation Adoption (ANIA) pathway, supported by £1.9 million of funding from the Scottish Government.



The ECG patch monitor is a small, discreet device which is worn like a plaster. Unlike traditional Holter monitors, which are bulky and require in-person fitting, these patches can be posted directly to patients and worn continuously for up to 14 days, even during exercise and showering.

This means more accurate data, faster diagnosis, and earlier treatment, reducing waiting times from up to 24 months to just three weeks. It's a game-changer for patients and clinicians alike.

During the visit, there were discussions around how the new ECG patch monitors could be used within our 1,000-bed virtual hospital, in partnership with Doccla, which will support shifting the balance of care from hospitals to the community through the use of wearable devices to allow patients to be monitored by clinicians from the comfort of their own homes.

Through our Transforming Together programme and partnership with Doccla, we are exploring further opportunities and innovations to support patients closer to home.

Over the past two years, around 100 patients in NHSGGC have benefited from this technology. Now, thanks to investment from the Scottish Government, around 8,000 patients across Scotland will benefit annually.

The national rollout is expected to:

- Prevent an estimated 689 recurrent strokes over five years.
- Save the NHS approximately £14.6 million.
- Free up 15.7 full-time cardiac physiologists to support other critical services.
- Standardise access to care, eliminating regional disparities.

This is innovation with real-world impact – improving outcomes, reducing inequalities, and making care more accessible.

I was joined on the visit by colleagues who have been instrumental in this journey, including our Medical Director Dr Scott Davidson, Director of Research and Innovation Professor Jesse Dawson, Consultant Cardiologist Dr Faheem Ahmad, and Dr Katriona Brooksbank, Regional Head of Innovation for NHSGGC and the West of Scotland Innovation Hub. Their leadership and collaboration have shown what's possible when we embrace new ways of working and put patients at the centre of innovation.

Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak, Chief Scientist for the Scottish Government, and Katie Cuthbertson, National Director for NHS Golden Jubilee's national Centre for Sustainable Delivery, also attended the visit.

At NHSGGC, we are proud to be leading the way in using technology, research and innovation to improve care, with this being a key component of our transformation agenda. The ECG patch programme is just one example of how we're delivering on our commitment to smarter, more effective healthcare. As we continue to innovate, collaborate, and scale what works, we're not just improving services, we're shaping a future where prevention, early intervention, and digital solutions are embedded across our health system.

Let's keep pushing forward – together.



Remember, for all your latest news stories, visit the Staffnet Hub:
[GGC-Staffnet Hub - Home \(sharepoint.com\)](https://sharepoint.com/GGC-Staffnet-Hub-Home)

Staff are reminded to make sure their [personal contact details are up to date on eESS](#).

**It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.
A full archive of printable PDFs are available on the [website](#)**