# North West Coast of England – Oberbergischer Kreis (Teleswallowing)

## Twinning overview

| Originator: | Adopter: | Innovative Practice: |
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| North West Coast of England, United Kingdome | Oberbergischer Kreis, Germany | Teleswallowing |

| Innovative Practice Description |
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| Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust won one of the NHS Challenge Prizes for its submission 'The Workplace of the Future'. We wish to share our vision that clinicians in future will utilise digital solutions to deliver care. This includes using health apps and remote assessment such as Teleswallowing – a way to assess the eating and drinking abilities of residents living within care homes. |

| Link to the EIP on AHA Repository of innovative practices: |
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| https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/repository/teleswallowing_en |

| Innovation Scope: |
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| <ul><li>✓ ICT tools supporting adherence to care plans</li><li>✓ Homecare, tele monitoring and mobile health systems</li><li>✓ Multi-disciplinary team support, workflow, care planning and co-ordination</li><li>✓ Tele-mentoring and virtual consultations</li></ul> |

| Innovation Type: |
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| ▪ **Knowledge exchange & training** |

The main aspect of the transfer-of-innovation-visit was a broad and multifaceted exchange of information between regional experts. The visit in Blackpool at the Teaching Hospital Blackpool brought together the initiative Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria, the Fylde Coast Vanguard, the Review of Health and Care Applications, the Innovation Programme from Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, a GP, a German mobile health startup, the Regional Innovation Network "Healthy Ageing" and the health-region CologneBonn.

The visit in Cologne brought together the University of Applied Sciences Bochum, the project "DiaTrain" – Teletherapy of Aphasia following Stroke, the German Institute for Telemedicine and Health Promotion DITG with their approach of Telemedical Lifestyle Intervention, a German mobile health startup, the Regional Innovation Network "Healthy Ageing", the health-region CologneBonn and the originators from Blackpool

| AHA Action Group: |
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| ✓ B3. Replicating and tutoring integrated care for chronic diseases, including remote monitoring at regional level |

| Twinning Objectives: |
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The objective of the Originator is to learn from our Cologne colleagues about how they deliver care and their ambitions for the future; to share the work we have achieved for the good of the general population.

The objective of the Adopter: We are working with both the GP already using first telemedical steps in the OBK as well as a start-up that focuses on establishing different telemedical solutions for hard-to-reach sites. The start-up also took part in our visit to England and could learn about tips and tricks from the vast experience in England and also made concrete plans to collaborate with some of the English partners. During the return visit of the reference site North West Coast of England, the start-up demonstrated their telemedicine usage and the English experts gave hints to improve the current situation. Additionally, other projects from the larger state of North Rhine-Westphalia reported on their digitalisation projects. This way, a mutual exchange of knowledge occurred that not only the members of our reference site could benefit from, but also experts from other cities. Also, the originator learned about different German approaches that might not be known / considered yet in England, which made it a win-win visit.

| Twinning end result: |
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The UK is one of the pioneers in Europe in the use of telemedical solutions and has a higher telecare penetration compared to other countries in Europe. An implementation of the innovative digital solution "teleswallowing" within a timeframe of three months was unrealizable considering the German systemic and structural conditions. The twinning did not result in concrete implementation of the innovative practice in the adopting region, however, the work being done in the reference site was improved by learning from the experiences of the originators.

The main reasons not to move towards an implementation of the digital solution "teleswallowing" were:

- structural barriers within the system: video-consultations are billable only since April 2017 • no standardised implementation model in Germany (compared to the centralized e-health approach in the NHS)
- due to Germany having more practicing therapists, the need to delegate in the area of speech and language therapy is lower than in the UK
- German staff does currently not necessarily have the capacity and capability to change from standard delivery methods
- different interests/concerns of relevant actors/players within the reference site complicated the intentions
- the very short timeframe didn't allow a sustainable integration of the complex innovative project
- missing financial resources

Implementing telemedical solutions is highly dependent on the support by sickness funds and GPs in Germany. We will continue to support doctors, GP's and care providers in general in going forward and motivate them to find and try out digital solutions. The framework of the Transfer-of-Innovation-Visits in Blackpool and Cologne resulted in interaction and new contacts between the participants. In the reference site Oberbergischer Kreis a further development of innovative medical and care approaches will occur within the next months. The experience that we, the adopter region, made during the twinning project will definitely enter in the upcoming considerations and we will use the expertise from the Originator region.