

The Heartbeat Trust

National Charity supporting specialist clinical & research services in Heart Failure & Heart Failure prevention in Ireland



Heart Failure

What is Heart Failure? It is a problem when the efficiency of the heart is impaired causing symptoms of breathlessness and fatigue. With the correct supports, Heart Failure can be largely managed in the community.

90,000

People in Ireland Living with Heart Failure



€660m

Estimated cost of Heart Failure in Ireland



20,000

Heart-failure related admissions to Irish Hospitals



11 days average stay
220,000+

Hospital days in total per year

Virtual Clinics

The Heartbeat Trust with the HSE & St Vincent's Healthcare Group in collaboration with GPs, developed the Heart Failure Virtual Clinics (HFVC) in order to communicate specialist advice to the community more efficiently to safely maintain patients health and well-being in their home environment. This provides ready access to specialist opinion & connects primary & secondary/tertiary care systems through technology-driven integrative care.

Online - Real Time - Dynamic
Virtual Consultations
Solution to OPD Waiting Lists

Cost Efficient Alternative Pathway for GPs to seek expert advice related to their patients

Knowledge Exchange allows dissemination of expert opinion & knowledge

The HFVC Care pathway is efficient & creates a **Dynamic Communication Environment** compared to traditional referral letter care pathway



HFVCs provide – **online, real-time, dynamic** consultations between GP and specialist – allowing **speedy, focused interactions**

VC Delivers Improved Patient Outcomes



Dynamic Expert Advice



Reduced need for patient travel



Reduced family inconvenience



Reduced need for OPD patient referral



Speedier Review



Shorter Waiting Times



Frees up hospital OPD slots for those in need of standard clinic



Reduced costs



Improved satisfaction



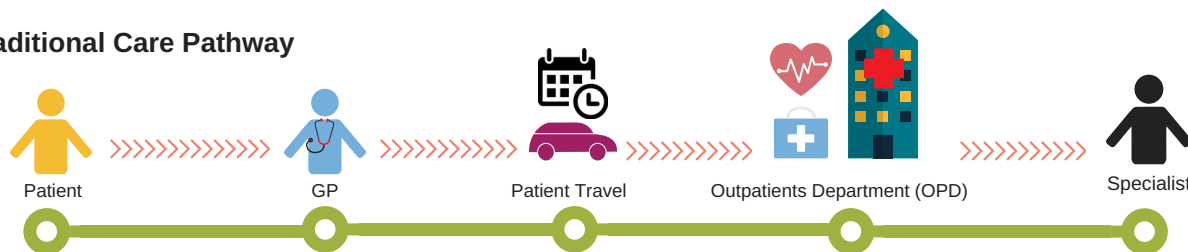
Improved knowledge among GPs with less referral

Heart Failure Virtual Clinic

Provides GPs with:

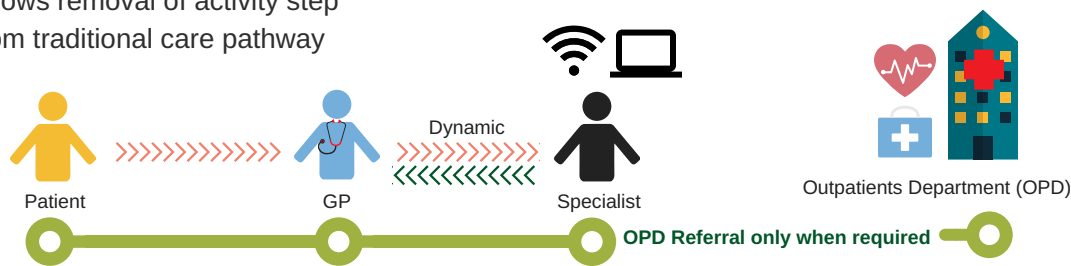
- **Dynamic Learning Environment**
- Necessary **Supports** to maintain & treat HF patients in primary care setting
- **HF Education**
- Improved **Knowledge Base**
- **Confidence** in Treating/Managing HF Patients
- Reduced need to refer patients onto secondary/tertiary care
- Peer to peer support
- Learning from GP Case Studies
- HF Advice

Traditional Care Pathway



HFVC Care Pathway

Allows removal of activity step from traditional care pathway



94%

GPs agreed the HVFC improved their ability to care for patients & discussions enhanced their knowledge of HF

76%

GPs agreed that the HVFC improved their confidence in identifying HF

100%

GPs strongly agreed that the HVFC advice was useful when treating patients in their surgery and that patients benefited as a result of their participation in HFVC

Heart Failure VC Facts

- Service running for over 24 months
- HFVC runs twice weekly
- Consists of CME topic followed by up to 6 cases
- Intense hour of **Knowledge Impartation**
- **150 GP's signed up to date**

"It is through investing in technology and through putting in place these building blocks in terms of eHealth that I really do believe that we can absolutely revolutionise the way we deliver health care and the way we improve patient care."

Minister for Health - Simon Harris TD

"This is the future"

GP 1

"I have learned more about the more appropriate treatments and I have been able to use that on other patients. My own personal knowledge of heart failure has improved...."

GP 2

"I mean I literally got, not only an instant answer verbally, but I also got confirmation of that in written form for the chart. So from a clinical management perspective it's fantastic"

GP 3

"The old pathway was seeing the specialists, then getting the test and then back to the specialist. This pathway reduces that first visit so yes they need the test and I will see them after, [which] makes the pathway more efficient"

GP 4

Patients were happy to have their condition discussed with experts and groups of GPs and relieved to not be referred to the outpatient department