

Virtual Heart Failure Clinics – Southern Health & Social Care Trust (SHSCT)

The Virtual Heart Failure Clinics project was established within the **Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT)** to support the optimisation of **evidence-based treatment for people living with heart failure**, through a virtual, multidisciplinary approach.

The project aimed to support clinical decision-making, optimise medicines use and enhance coordination of care, while enabling appropriate use of alternatives to face-to-face hospital attendance where clinically suitable.

Project Overview

The project was delivered through **regular virtual clinics** over a **12-month period**. The clinics brought together specialist heart failure clinicians, primary care colleagues and pharmacy input to review patient cases and support management in line with evidence-based guidance.

The virtual format enabled collaborative discussion of complex cases, supported consistency of care across settings and facilitated timely access to specialist advice without requiring in-person attendance where appropriate.

Key Outcomes

Medicines optimisation and clinical decision-making

The virtual clinics supported clinical decision-making and optimisation of evidence-based heart failure therapy. The multidisciplinary format enabled shared learning and facilitated timely review and adjustment of treatment plans.

Access and use of virtual care

The project demonstrated the feasibility of using a virtual clinic model to support specialist input into heart failure care. The approach complemented existing services and supported more appropriate use of face-to-face hospital attendance where clinically required.

Clinical Practice and Governance

The project operated within established governance arrangements and supported collaboration between specialist and primary care teams. The virtual model complements wider approaches to multidisciplinary and digitally enabled care.

Achievement of Project Objectives

The project showed that virtual heart failure clinics can support medicines optimisation, multidisciplinary working and clinical decision-making within SHSCT. The initiative generated

learning to inform future service development and complements wider heart failure service improvement activity.

Partners Involved

The project was delivered through a **Joint Working Agreement with AstraZeneca**, in partnership with:

- **Southern Health and Social Care Trust (SHSCT)**
- **Medicines Optimisation Innovation Centre (MOIC)**

Project Duration

The Virtual Heart Failure Clinics project operated over a **12-month period**.