

GP uses the Consultant Connect App to provide the right treatment quickly for complicated case

Specialty mentioned: Rheumatology

Dr Weaver works at Grove House Surgery in NHS Somerset CCG. He has been a GP for one year and uses the Consultant Connect App to speak to consultants at Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust, Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Before using the Consultant Connect App, Dr Weaver says that he would get specialist advice using the telephone ("often waiting on hold") or would "just refer."

He finds the Consultant Connect App to be a better tool for the following reasons:

"[It gives] direct access to consultant level advice. It saves a huge amount of time both for GP (I am often able to sort a problem there and then during a consultation with the patient) and consultant (saves admin time answering advice and guidance letters or clinic slots for things that can be sorted over the phone)."

Dr Weaver provides the following advice to those who are thinking of using the app but who are unsure:

"Give it a trial and you will see the benefits on day 1 for GPs, nurse practitioners, patients and secondary care. It has also increased my knowledge by getting instant feedback on challenging cases, when in the past I would not see a clinic letter for many weeks afterwards."

Below is a recent example of how Dr Weaver has used the app to benefit a patient.

GP obtains faster treatment for patient with atypical Polymyalgia Rheumatica presentation

"I saw an elderly gentleman with symptoms suggestive of Polymyalgia Rheumatica, however it was an atypical presentation and I was concerned that I might be missing something (such as underlying cancer) and was not sure whether to initiate treatment or wait for further tests or refer, knowing that a referral could take several weeks. I called the Rheumatology team via the Consultant Connect App and was able to discuss the case in detail with the senior registrar who advised me what tests to organise and when to initiate treatment, as well as a detailed steroid reducing regime."

How Telephone Advice & Guidance helped:

"The registrar explained all the things that would have been arranged at the first clinic appointment, so I was able to get the ball rolling before the patient would be able to be seen at the clinic. This was a better outcome for the patient who was able to get the right treatment quickly."

Dr Weaver also commented that use of Telephone Advice & Guidance left both him and the patient feeling "very satisfied with the outcome".

If you have any questions about this service, please get in touch at hello@consultantconnect.org.uk or on 01865 261467.