

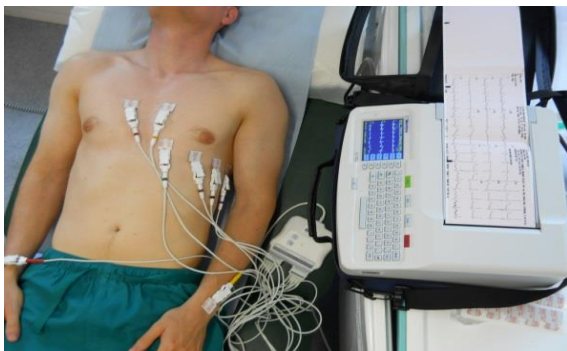


New portable ECG machine for the Savernake Hospital Community Nurse Team

The Community Nurse Team at Savernake Hospital are delighted to now have their own portable ECG machine worth over £2,000, thanks to a generous grant from the Friends of Savernake Hospital and the Community.

The Community Nurse Team care for patients in their own homes, and, prior to receiving the Friends' grant had been trialling portable ECG equipment on loan.

The portable ECG machine enables the Community Nurses to further expand the services they provide to house-bound patients, and has been welcomed by local GPs.



The portable ECG machine in action

“The equipment is now an integral part of the services we can offer the people in our locality”, explains Team Leader, Cate Judd.

“With an ever ageing population, and with the move to more complex conditions being cared for in the home, this portable ECG machine gives us the diagnostic tools we need to manage this cohort of patients.”

An electrocardiogram (ECG) test checks for problems with electrical activity of the heart. The Community Nurses' ECG machine is intended to be used for routine check-ups of house bound patients with chronic conditions such as atrial fibrillation (irregular heart beat) and who need stroke prevention tests. These can now be carried out at a GP's request by the

Community Nurses without the need for the patient to leave home to attend the surgery or outpatient department. Data is then relayed back to the relevant GP.

The Community Nurses are also sharing their new equipment: - when it is not on the road with one of the Community Nurses it is being used in the Falls Clinic at Savernake Hospital to analyse why some patients fall.