

# Meet Stephanie

## Stephanie Smith

Team Leader for Digital Health –  
Senior Clinical Nurse Assessor,  
Tameside and Stockport

“ My background is in critical care,  
I worked on an ITU for eight years.

Our job is hospital avoidance – keeping people at home where we can.

Our staff go around the wards to see if there's anyone suitable for the service, we attend bed meetings, we get direct referrals from wards, from crisis teams, or from A&E.

We have a full referral process; we do some checks around how comfortable people are using the equipment and discuss their home circumstances. A clinician assesses them face-to-face to check they're suitable. Even someone with dementia, for instance, is perfectly suitable for this service as long as they've got support from relatives or people who will help. We have a consent document we go through with them that they sign.

We have had people say no, it's not for them, but we've had lots of people say 'yes please get me home'. We have a team that can go out and help people if they have teething problems with the equipment, for example.

Everyone prefers being in their own home, they are avoiding unnecessary infections and keeping their independence. For most people, they're much better off in their own home rather than losing that in hospital.

It is about not losing that quality of life. We've had young people on the service; being on this service has meant they've been able to continue working, with us keeping a close eye on them.

To begin with, it was difficult to choose the right patient; you don't know how they're going to be when they get home. We were cautious at first, but we are so intensely monitoring them, morning, midday, mid-evening and at night. Should they come into trouble, they can get hold of us.

I think GPs were a bit unsure to begin with, but now they love the service.

We've had good feedback from patients. They've said they felt supported on discharge; they've found it really helpful. They have said they feel safe.

It can be nerve-wracking going home from hospital, even if you're completely well. But with this service, going home with our support has felt like a buffer for people.

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Everyone  
prefers being  
in their  
own home

The care of hospital,  
the comfort of home



Find out more:  
[gmhospitalathome.co.uk](http://gmhospitalathome.co.uk)

