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Local health and social care heroes chosen to represent Midlands and East in NHS birthday awards



The Trust's renal telemedicine team, with divisional chair for medicine, clinical director for renal medicine and consultant nephrologist, Dr Suresh Mathavakkannan centre back.

Stevenage, UK – 17 May 2018 – The Trust's renal telemedicine team has been chosen from hundreds of applicants to represent the Midlands and East region in a prestigious competition to mark the NHS's 70th birthday.

As regional champion in the Future Health category, they will now vie with other regional winners from across England for a national award to be presented at a special ceremony in the Palace of Westminster in July.

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The NHS70 Parliamentary Awards, sponsored by IBM and Teva, recognise the massive contribution made by the individuals who work in and alongside the NHS.

Launched in February, it asked the region's MPs to find and nominate those individuals or teams they thought have made the biggest improvements to health services in their constituencies across ten categories. The Trust's renal telemedicine team was nominated by the Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald MP.

From over 750 entries, senior experts have chosen four outstanding nominations in each category, which exemplify the best of what the NHS and its partners do day in, day out.

Consultant nephrologist, Dr Suresh Mathavakkannan, who is also the Trust's divisional chair for medicine and clinical director for renal medicine, led the nomination process. He said:

"The service supports NHS New Models of Care for patients with long term conditions, using telemedicine for patients: with kidney failure on dialysis; who are approaching the need for dialysis or who have functioning kidney transplants. Using telemedicine allows us to hold video clinics with these patients, who report their blood pressure, weight and well-being during their consultation.

"The benefits of the renal telemedicine service include allowing more people to perform their dialysis treatments at home with confidence and supporting kidney transplant patients to have clinic consultations at a time of their choosing, without the need to attend hospital as frequently. Thus far, over 1,000 miles in patient journeys have been saved by alternating video consultations with face-to-face clinics."

Nominating MP, The Rt Hon Sir Oliver Heald said:

"This service allows people to avoid tiring regular journeys to hospital, by helping them through video consultations either to perform dialysis at home or have regular monitoring from home after a kidney transplant. I was very impressed by the caring nature of this project and that it shows us one aspect of the potential future for NHS care, which is why I nominated them."

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All of the champions will now be invited to the national awards ceremony, which will be held on 4th July 2018, the day before the NHS's 70th birthday.

The ceremony will be hosted by Dr Sara Kayat, NHS GP and TV Doctor best known for This Morning, Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls and GPs: Behind Closed Doors.

The regional champions will now go forward to a final stage of judging by a panel including the leaders of Royal Colleges, the Unison trade union, and the Patients Association – collectively representing millions of health and care workers and patients.

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About the NHS70 Parliamentary Awards

The NHS marks its 70th birthday on July 5th 2018, and the NHS70 Parliamentary Awards is part of a range of activities being organised by NHS England and NHS Improvement to mark this milestone, and the achievements of the NHS and those who work for and with it.

These range from ceremonies for NHS staff in Westminster Abbey and York Minster, the special 10p NHS coin released by The Royal Mint and new resources for schools to engage children and young people to think about a career in the NHS, to local open days, exhibitions and other events being staged by hospitals and other health organisations.

People and organisations are also encouraged to take part in the NHS Big 7Tea, with tea parties happening across the country to mark the birthday, sharing their NHS stories and raising money for one of over 250 dedicated NHS charities.

Find out more about NHS70 celebrations and how to get involved at www.nhs70.nhs.uk.

Further information on the NHS70 Parliamentary Awards is available at www.nhs70awards.co.uk.

About the East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust

The Trust provides a wide range of acute and tertiary care services from four hospitals, namely the: Lister in Stevenage; New QEII in Welwyn Garden City; Hertford County in Hertford; and the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre in Northwood, Middlesex

For more information about the Trust, go to the [website](#).

For more information, please call the communications team on: 01438 285362 or 01438 285940; for out-of-hours calls, please call the duty press officer on 07920 412023.

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