

# Transforming diagnostic services through Xyla

– an insights bulletin from Acacium Group

## Introduction

Acacium Group, formerly known as ICS, is the NHS's largest partner offering staffing, managed services and innovative delivery models to local health and social care systems. We are particularly active in the area of diagnostics, where the application and integration of our technology into NHS pathways helps address staff shortages and bring care closer to patients.

We have launched our new brand 'Xyla' to bring our diagnostic service offers together.

**Xyla services can help expand the capacity** of traditional NHS diagnostic services without the need for additional physical capacity, and helps **maximise the available workforce**. This briefing, which is intended for all those with an interest in transforming diagnostics, sets out:

- Our approach
- Further information about Xyla services
- Contact information

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## Our approach

Acacium Group has its origins as a provider of flexible staffing to the NHS. Over time, we have worked closely with the NHS diagnostic services into which we place those staff to identify whether – through the use of technology – the staff time can be deployed in smarter ways. This technology-enabled approach has unlocked three key benefits:

1. Helping **match local demand** for diagnostic services **to the available supply of staff** (including those who can offer services remotely)
2. Increasing diagnostic throughput, both by **reducing unsuitable referrals** to specialists and then **supporting those specialists to make decisions** in the most efficient way possible
3. Enabling **flexible working to extend the careers of skilled staff** working in diagnostic services

Our approach has now been brought together in 'Xyla'. All Xyla diagnostic services are CQC-registered, make use of fully-approved medical and health technologies, and are overseen by our Clinical Director Karen Matthews-Shard and our Medical Advisory Group.

## Xyla services

Xyla offers a wide range of CQC-registered services, some examples of which are set out below.

- **Virtual dermatology clinics**

Our virtual dermatology service is outlined in the following diagram.



The service benefits from a number of important assurance processes:

- The images captured **meet the standards stipulated by the Institute of Medical Illustrators**, and are secured on the Cinapsis platform widely used in the NHS
- The decisions taken by clinicians are **subject to regular peer review** through the Medical Advisory Group
- Follow-up outcomes are **recorded and audited regularly**
- The service is helping to **build capacity and improve efficiency** in the areas it operates, such as the Norfolk NHS – where it can help 500 patients each week.

- **ECG patch monitoring at home**

Our ECG service is outlined in the diagram below.



The service makes use of Eclipse Pro monitors from Spacelabs for screening, arrhythmia, pacemaker detection, and standard 12-lead ECG.

- **Community diagnostic hub 'plus'**
- Our **virtual services complement those offered by traditional NHS diagnostic services**, and can be used comprehensively in a way which supplements the NHS's existing physical capacity. With the NHS now exploring the concept of Community Diagnostics Hubs (CDHs)<sup>1</sup> – as envisaged in Professor Sir Mike Richards' review of NHS diagnostic services – such virtual and technology-enabled services could help CDHs deliver more diagnostics to more people.
- For example, we have recently launched a new service – CVD prevent - to **provide the NHS with fast local access to multiple diagnostic**

**tests** and specialist clinical assessment under eight core CVD pathways. In addition, we **plan to roll out a national AF screening service** providing GPs with immediate access to 30-second AF screens for all over-65s. In Lambeth, this service delivers a range of investigatory tests in the community – including echocardiogram, ECG and blood pressure – and we expect to deliver such diagnostic services to over 14,000 patients this year. In addition to this, we plan to provide access for GPs to refer into a weight management program keeping patients out of hospital.

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## Contact information

We hope this short briefing is helpful. If you are interested in knowing more, please get in touch via [info@acaciumgroup.com](mailto:info@acaciumgroup.com).

<sup>1</sup> [Institute of Medical Illustrators, Mobile Phone and Mobile Apps for Clinical Photography. A Guide to Good Practice, October 2019](#)