Near Me Group Consultations in AHP Services Webinar

Thursday 6th October 11am –12pm

This webinar will enable you to identify how Near Me Groups can be used in your AHP Service to meet the needs of your patients.

Presentations from AHP colleagues:

Lesley Holdsworth - National Digitial picture and where Near Me groups fits into this

Dervilla Byrne & Angela Carvalho – Dietetics – NHS Lothian

Annabelle Colquhoun - Speech & Language Therapy (Pre-recorded) - NHS Lothian

Cathy Gillan & Sarah Nolan – Physiotherapy - Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital – Drogheda - ROI

**Q&A**

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| Do pts self report their height and weight? | Yes, we call them individually after the group to obtain self-reported heights and weights. If they don't have access to scales we can arrange for them to pop into one of our clinics. |
| Is there a limit to the number of participants and can they remain anonymous on screen during the session? | Number of participants is 60. Participants can be seen by everyone by either initials or full names - this can be set by administrator |
| Can video clips be shared during group sessions? | yes as service providers you can share your screen to show video clips |
| Is there an option to have just first names on view to the participants? | It is either full names or intials |
| Does the functionality allow for sharing of screen/ powerpoint during the group? | Yes screen sharing is possible and we have some guidance on sharing powerpoint here <https://www.vc.scot.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/near-me-ppt-share.pdf> |
| Is there a functionality for break -out groups? And if so, is there scope for the therapist to specifically select patients for these break-out groups or would it be a random selection? | Yes there is functionality for breakout room and select participants to each breakout rooms |
| Can the patients turn off their camera if they wish in this platform? | Yes or blur/choose background plus mute their microphones |
| We have different groups running at the same times with different clinicians. Would we ned a separate waiting room for each different group? If so is there a limit to number of waiting rooms we can have? | Yes, if they are running at the same time separate rooms would be required - how many do you think you would require? |
| Can service providers running group sessions select background before joining the call? | prior admitting participants into the call you can change your background |
| Can you show video clips and still see patients | yes - patient would appear in smaller boxes |
| Is a participant able to join a session without a webcam or with it disconnected if they wish? Or can they switch off prior to joining a group session if they don't wish to be seen? | They would not be able to attend if they do not have a webcam. If they do have a webcam - yes they can switch it off |
| Can I ask, do patients who attend into group format via NearMe gain access via waiting room link using web browser? Meaning, they do not require to download any specific NearMe app? | no need to download anything - it is accessed via web browser. Apple Safari, Microsoft Edge and Google Chrome |
| Are there any issues around the browser patients or clinicians need to use for Near Me groups? | It is accessed via Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome and Apple Safari |
| What might be some of the perks in using NearMe for groups rather than using MSTeams? | Ease of patient use, increased IG and Security compliance, safer for staff. Near Me is nationally approved platform for Scotland |
| How many pts do u take as a max for virtual | The platform can hold up to 60, depends upon the type of group you are running |
| If we are interested in trialling Near Me groups rather than Teams, what is the best next step for us/ who is most appropriate to contact to get the ball rolling? | Please visit <https://tec.scot/programme-areas/near-me/group-consultations> and you can email us at nss.nearme.scot |
| How do we get access to use Near Me for groups? We are keen to start using this in Mental Health OT now we have chat and breakout functionality available | See above |
| Is there guidance as to how to set group sessions up? | Please visit <https://tec.scot/programme-areas/near-me/group-consultations> and you can email us at nss.nearme.scot |
| Can sessions be recorded? And can participants then access the recorded videos? | Near Me does not have a record feature intentionally. |

**Support**

**Staff**:  
For urgent help the Service Desk is open Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00 and can be contacted on 01224 816666 or [vc.support@nhs.scot](mailto:vc.support@nhs.scot) for assistance. Callers should not be given our contact details.

**Non-urgent issues**:  
Please follow the troubleshooting advice below or contact us via the form that bottom of the support page here <https://www.vc.scot.nhs.uk/near-me/support/> .

While patients or other callers must not be directed to our help desk, we can contact them to help with their problems, given their approval for us to do so. If you’d like us to get in contact with your caller, please telephone us with a first name, telephone number and a suitable time for us to contact them.

**For more information on Near Me Groups please visit:** <https://tec.scot/programme-areas/near-me/group-consultations> or email the Near Me Team on [nss.nearme@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.nearme@nhs.scot)