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CEDAR
Centre for Healthcare Evaluation,
Device Assessment and Research

CEDAR: Centre for Healthcare Evaluation, Device Assessment and Research

Spring Bulletin

March 2025, Issue 10

CEDAR is committed to supporting patient-centred, evidence-based care through research and evaluation of health interventions, technologies, and NHS services.

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CEDAR News

- An evaluation of patient and clinician experiences of lupus services in NHS Wales was carried out for the Welsh Government. Visit our website [project page](#) for the latest updates.
- Kathleen Withers, CEDAR Deputy Director, presented at the BioWales in London event organised by MediWales, showcasing the work that CEDAR do with other organisations in the Welsh life science sector.
- CEDAR and Cardiff Medicentre were featured in a [promotional video](#) showcasing their evaluation of the potential adoption of a single-use endoscope (IQ Endoscope) within Cardiff and Vale UHB. This work was carried out in collaboration with the Cardiff Capital Region Endoscopy Challenge Fund and the Shaping Change team.
- Congratulations to our CEDAR team on their recent publications this quarter! These include:
 - ◇ A publication on the [NICE Medical Technologies Guidance for the Gaitsmart Rehabilitation Exercise Programme for Gait and Mobility Issues](#).
 - ◇ A review of [Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation \(ECMO\) for Adult Respiratory Failure](#).
 - ◇ A [protocol for the POLARiS study](#), an international phase 3 trial investigating treatments for Low Anterior Resection syndrome (LARS) after Surgery, including economic and qualitative evaluations.

CEDAR Away Day

CEDAR recently held a team away day with [Mission Performance](#) to explore the team's strengths, dynamics, and future goals as it continues to grow. The day featured insightful discussions on effective teamwork, personal motivations, and values, along with engaging team-building activities to strengthen collaboration.



Hoist building in teams during the CEDAR away day

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

RSA-PACE: First-In-Human Study of a RSA Pacemaker



The [RSA-PACE trial](#) is testing a novel temporary pacemaker designed to improve heart function in people with heart failure. Unlike traditional pacemakers, this device synchronises heartbeats with breathing - a natural rhythm called respiratory sinus arrhythmia (RSA), which weakens with age and heart disease. Developed by Welsh company Ceryx Medical, the pacemaker is being tested in patients undergoing heart surgery. It is led by Chief Investigator, Professor Zaheer Yousef, a Consultant Cardiologist at Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, and managed by Dr. Susan Peirce and the clinical research team at CEDAR. This first-in-human trial is assessing whether RSA-based pacing is possible, and is as safe as standard pacing. The study is running across multiple sites in the UK, with a similar trial being held in New Zealand, and Australia. The study opened for recruitment at the University Hospital of Wales in November 2024, and will soon be opening at Bristol and Swansea.

Syndrome Without A Name (SWAN) Clinic Evaluation



The Syndrome Without A Name (SWAN) Clinic, launched in 2022 at the University Hospital of Wales, was the first of its kind in the UK, aiming to improve the diagnostic odyssey for people with rare, undiagnosed conditions. Rare diseases affect around 175,000 people in Wales, with patients often waiting years for a diagnosis. CEDAR evaluated the pilot clinic to assess its impact on patients and healthcare services. Through patient interviews, clinician feedback, and service data analysis, the evaluation examined improvements in diagnosis times, patient experiences, and care pathways. The findings are summarised in an [executive summary](#) on our website project page.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Healthcare Decision Making

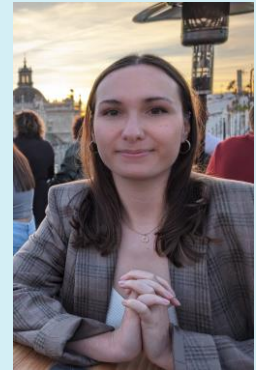
CEDAR is currently undertaking a project with the aim of finding out what would encourage or discourage people living in Wales or healthcare professionals working in Wales to use AI to support healthcare decision-making. The first stage of this study was an online survey to which we had 309 responses. The second stage will be a series of focus groups and interviews, and we will aim to also include participants aged 16-18 and those that are digitally excluded. The findings from this study will help us understand how AI technology should be designed and implemented in a way that is acceptable to both patients and healthcare professionals in Wales. For more details, visit the [project page](#) on our website.

Publication Showcase – GaitSmart NICE Medical Technologies Guidance

Published in March in *Applied Health Economics and Health Policy*, "[GaitSmart Rehabilitation Exercise Programme for Gait and Mobility Issues: A NICE Medical Technologies Guidance](#)" summarises the company's evidence submission, CEDAR's assessment report, and how it was used by NICE to develop [MTG78](#). While the assessment found limited evidence on its clinical applicability and the comparators used varied widely in these studies, clinical experts thought GaitSmart had the potential to improve patients' outcomes. Economic findings suggest that GaitSmart is cost saving by reducing staff time costs. Uncertainty in the economic models is attributable to the high variability in standard care. NICE recommends that GaitSmart can be used to treat gait and mobility issues in people at risk of falls while gathering more evidence. However, for adults having hip or knee replacements, access to GaitSmart should be via the company, research or non-core NHS funding, with appropriate management of any risks.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

We speak to Jasmine Rollings, Senior Evaluation Scientist at CEDAR.



Tell us a bit about you and your role:

I joined CEDAR in December as a Senior Researcher. My background is in psychology and population health. I'll be working on service evaluations, clinical research, and health economics within CEDAR.

What three words would you use to describe CEDAR?

Creative, collaborative, fuelled by coffee.

What is your favourite part of your job?

Working in a team with a broad range of different skills and experiences; everyone has something unique to add to project discussions.

Choose a superpower?

Teleportation. Who doesn't want to watch the sunset in Australia every now and again?

What is a fact about you that people would be surprised by?

Last summer I did the highest bungee jump in Central America while on honeymoon.