

Innovation Brief

Non-Imaging Vibration Controlled Ultrasound System - Fibroscan, Supplied by Echosens

Summary

Disruptive innovation

This briefing introduces a disruptive innovation newly available via NHS Supply Chain: The Fibroscan. Reviewed by clinical specialists and supported by key stakeholders, this device offers a novel approach to managing fibrosis and damage to the liver.

Introduction

This document is intended to inform clinical stakeholders and procurement teams about innovative products that have undergone a clinical review and are now accessible through NHS Supply Chain.

Products featured in this brief may be classified as:

- Disruptive innovations
 - A disruptive innovation is novel.
 - It should offer improvements compared to the existing provision of care.
 - The proposed format should not exist elsewhere (either within or beyond the health and care sector).

Note: While robust evidence or validated savings may not yet be available, early data and clinical insights support the potential for patient and system-level improvements.

Departments / stakeholders for engagement

- NHS procurement teams
- Primary care
- Secondary care
- Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs)
- Hepatology departments
- Drug and alcohol services

Opportunity

The Fibroscan presents an opportunity to enhance at risk patient care by:

- Lowering wait times (the Fibroscan does not require a trained sonographer to operate the system).
- Proactively diagnose any potential warning signs of liver damage, therefore allowing patients to make informed steps to improve their lifestyle.
- Relocating scans to community settings to improve attendance (in line with the NHS 10-year plan).
- “Reduce health inequalities for people from underserved groups (such as disabled people, people living in rural areas or people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds)” (DG48 Guidelines).

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Product overview



The Fibroscan is an ultrasound that non-invasively measures the health of a patient's liver. Using transient elastography, the Fibroscan can instantly measure the stiffness of a liver to assist the diagnosis of scarring, fibrosis or cirrhosis and liver disease.

Clinical relevance:

- A sonographer is not required to use the system.
- Practitioners will receive training from Echosens during the installation of the system.

Additional benefits:

- The Fibroscan can also help scan for further liver conditions, such as:
 - Hepatitis B
 - Hepatitis C
 - Alcohol-Liver disease
 - Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis
 - Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD)
- Can be used in the community with a small tablet version also available.

Pathway change:

- Ability to reroute patients to GPs and Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) rather than straight to hospitals for a liver biopsy

Supply details

MPCs:

- K630E01 (Fibroscan 630 Expert)
- K43M24 (Fibroscan 430 Mini)

Route - **Direct**

Supplier - Echosens

Unit of Issue - Each

Class IIa Medical Device

Brand - Echosens

Supporting evidence / notes

- “Reduce health inequalities for people from underserved groups (such as disabled people, people living in rural areas or people from lower socioeconomic backgrounds)” (DG48 Guidelines)

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