

## E-MDT

Any technological solution will need to be robust enough to address these issues without getting in the way.

Clinicians are extremely wary of adopting new ways of working that promise fixes to such problems: current systems may be flaky, the level of 'flakiness' is known and accepted and, therefore, if a meeting is abandoned for any of the reasons described above, it is accepted as 'just one of those things' and the meeting is rebooked. There is little tolerance for a new technology that may or may not work.

Any technological solution for clinical use must add positively to the user experience without impacting negatively on patient care. Brilliantly engineered solutions may not work in a clinical workspace, as there are nuances to the workstreams not appreciated by non-medics. These workstreams may not always be logical in execution when compared with software engineering processes. The greatest leaps forward can be made when two very different industries meet to find a solution to a problem.

## REQUISITES OF THE E-MDT

Any eMDT solution must take the above criteria into account. It is essential that the solution provides the following:

- Mimics the current clinical pathway as close as is possible.
- Maintains governance standards and data security at all times.
- The technology should not get in the way of delivering best clinical care.
- Processes should provide a standardised, repeatable outcome with audit in place
- Facilitates accessibility and flexibility in the clinical working environment.
- Enhances the patient pathway by reducing unnecessary delays that currently exist.
- Ideally, influence current clinical practice to adopt new ways of working to improve patient care delivery.

## CONCLUSION

The MDT process is an essential step within the patient journey from diagnosis to treatment and can be described as the keystone to the clinical pathway. The current focus is on early diagnosis which is putting increasing pressure on the pathway as a whole.

The next 'battleground' will be Diagnosis to Decision with the current stumbling block being the MDT. The MDT must adapt quickly to absorb this pressure and eMDT solutions may be the way forward, if built and deployed effectively taking all the above into account.