



Norfolk and Suffolk Health and Care Awards 2026

Research and Innovation Award

N Tidal Diagnose: Community Spirometry Service

NHS Norfolk and Suffolk ICB

N-Tidal Diagnose is transforming COPD diagnosis and respiratory care across Suffolk and previously North East Essex through an innovative, community-based approach aligned with Integrated Care System priorities. Developed in partnership with Health Innovation East, the programme addresses longstanding challenges in COPD care, including delayed diagnosis, limited access to testing, and health inequalities. By introducing AI-supported breath analysis technology into community settings, it enables earlier identification, faster intervention, and care closer to home.

Using population health data, the programme targeted areas of high prevalence and unmet need, supporting proactive case finding and improving equity of access. Strong collaboration between primary care, secondary care, community respiratory teams, and patients ensured safe and effective integration within clinical pathways. Robust governance, clinical safety processes, and ongoing evaluation underpin the programme, demonstrating a commitment to high-quality, evidence-based innovation.

The impact has been significant. The programme helped clear a backlog of 650 patients awaiting respiratory assessment while improving patient experience through a simple, non-invasive 10-minute breathing test that avoids the need for complex spirometry. This has made testing more accessible for patients who are frail, breathless or anxious. It has also reduced reliance on specialist training requirements, improving workforce flexibility and supporting sustainable service delivery.

Importantly, patient voices have shaped the design and implementation, ensuring a more inclusive, person-centred approach. Ongoing real-world evaluation is building evidence of clinical effectiveness and system benefit. Overall, N-Tidal Diagnose demonstrates how innovation, data-driven targeting and collaboration can deliver scalable, efficient and equitable respiratory care, helping reshape future NHS pathways.