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**WUTH recognised with High Commendation for  
transforming hip and knee replacement care**

Wirral University Teaching Hospital's Digitally Supported Arthroplasty Service has been Highly Commended at the 2026 HSJ Digital Awards. The service was recognised in the 'Empowering Patients Through Digital' category, which celebrate organisations and teams using digital technology to improve patient care, access to services and healthcare outcomes across the UK.



The awards ceremony took place on 19<sup>th</sup> May at The ICC in Birmingham and attracted a record number of entries this year, reflecting the scale and pace of digital innovation taking place across health and care settings nationwide.

The award recognises the success of WUTH's pioneering approach to supporting patients undergoing elective hip and knee replacement surgery through a digitally enabled care pathway.

Since launching in 2022, more than 3,000 patients have been recruited to the service, which combines a smartphone app with a clinical dashboard to improve communication, recovery support and remote monitoring throughout the patient journey.

The service gives patients access to tailored information, exercise videos, recovery guidance and direct contact with specialist teams before and after surgery. It has helped reduce unnecessary face-to-face appointments, supported earlier discharge from hospital and improved access to specialist advice. This has been particularly beneficial for patients who live further away from hospital or have limited access to transport.



Importantly, the service has been designed to ensure equitable access to care, with analogue alternatives available for patients who are unable or choose not to use digital technology.

Rose Finley, Nurse Consultant for Trauma and Orthopaedics at Wirral University Teaching Hospital, said: "We are incredibly proud to receive this national recognition. Our Digitally Supported

Arthroplasty Service has transformed the way we care for patients undergoing hip and knee replacement surgery, helping people feel more informed, supported and confident throughout their recovery journey.

“From the beginning, our focus has been on improving patient experience while ensuring the service remains inclusive and accessible to everyone. This award reflects the dedication, innovation and collaboration of the entire multidisciplinary team involved in developing and delivering the service.”

Mr Nigel Donnachie, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon at Wirral University Teaching Hospital, said: “This service has fundamentally changed the way we support our arthroplasty patients. By using digital technology alongside personalised clinical care, we are able to monitor recovery more effectively, intervene earlier when needed and reduce unnecessary hospital visits.

“It has also given clinicians greater confidence in supporting early discharge and remote follow-up, while ensuring patients still feel connected to specialist teams throughout their recovery.”

The service was developed as part of WUTH’s wider Pathway Optimisation Programme in partnership with technology provider Zimmer Biomet and has already attracted interest from organisations regionally and nationally looking to implement similar models of care.

The national recognition highlights WUTH’s growing role as a digital leader within the NHS and wider healthcare community, demonstrating how innovation, collaboration and patient-centred design can drive meaningful improvements in healthcare delivery.