Scaling up telemonitoring – the problem

- The implementation of telemonitoring at scale has been less successful than anticipated.
- One important factor has been the lack of integration of patient generated data (PGD) with the electronic medical record.

The Scale-Up BP solution

- Anonymised PGD are downloaded from a third party telehealth system to the NHS.
- The clinician looks up the NHS patient management system (TrakCare® from Intersystems) to select the correct patient using the patient’s CHI number.
- The clinician records the unique telehealth ID and enters whether to receive reports on a 1 monthly, 3 monthly or 6 monthly basis.
- Each record in the manual data extract is stored in a table and, at the time of report generation, processed by InterSystems Ensemble® which allows for the development of new connectable applications.
- Scheduled tasks trigger the generation of a PDF graph and the sending of the report to the Electronic Document Transfer Hub for transmission to the GP practices.

The telehealth report

- Each report is pushed out through the Docman system, into the specified GP practice where it is assimilated into the normal electronic document handling processes.
- It summarises the readings in graphical and tabular form with an average calculated. Recommended follow up is suggested if required based on NICE guidelines.

GP practice feedback

The availability of this report has helped to greatly increase the number of general practices using telemonitoring to manage blood pressure in NHS Lothian. There are over 350 patients using this system.