




HEALTH CARE CLOSER TO HOME

Safe treatment close to home – when the need arises



Health Care Closer to Home brings specialized acute medical care closer to citizens in nursing homes, so that we can make the right decision quickly and prevent having to admit them into the emergency ward – and instead staying in the comfort of their own home.

The aim is to prevent acute hospital admissions among older citizens and create more coherent, reassuring and dignified care pathways with treatment delivered to the citizens in their own home.

We do this by strengthening collaboration between hospitals and municipalities and connecting the community nurse and the staff at the emergency ward more closely through a digital solution that can share the citizens status across sectors. This makes it possible to assess and treat more citizens in safe surroundings and limit hospital admissions.

Health Care Closer to Home is a partnership between Zealand University Hospital, selected municipalities and ImagineCare.

Background

The healthcare system is facing significant demographic and capacity-related challenges. We are becoming an older population, and more people are living with complex healthcare needs.

Many nursing homes are linked to nursing home physicians who can provide support during daytime hours. The challenge often arises when acute situations occur outside these hours. In such cases, social and healthcare assistants often carry the responsibility – typically in collaboration with a community nurse and the out-of-hours doctor.

In these situations, there is not always access to the citizen's history, treatment level or individual wishes, and the necessary acute medical consultation is not always brought in at the right time. This weakens the basis for decision-making, the care pathway loses coherence, and the risk of acute (re)admissions increases.

With earlier detection and a more coordinated effort close to the citizen, we can prevent admission and ensure that the citizen receives the right help in the right place.



Who does it make a difference for – and how



Residents in nursing homes

We create greater reassurance and faster clarification by providing access to specialized acute medical assessment via an acute hotline directly to the emergency ward. This strengthens coherence in the care pathway and can reduce unnecessary acute hospital admissions.



Care staff in nursing homes

We strengthen professional confidence in acute situations through decision support and consultation – especially outside regular hours. At the same time, the effort supports better medication management and higher quality in local handling.



Coordination and communication across healthcare sectors

We support better flow and fewer preventable admissions because we raise the quality of assessment and follow-up closer to the citizens. At the same time, we strengthen coordination and communication across sectors so that decisions are made on a shared and better-informed basis.



A model with potential

Health Care Closer to Home is built on a flexible model that can be adapted to local organizational and geographical conditions. The model can therefore also serve as a national reference for acute efforts close to the citizens.

At the same time, we can expand to new target groups, for example citizens living in their own homes who receive home care. With the same approach, we can strengthen early detection, ensure faster professional clarification, and support better decisions in acute situations. The goal is that more citizens can be assessed and treated in their own home when relevant.



A shared responsibility across sectors

Health Care Closer to Home supports the intentions of the healthcare reform for closer and more binding collaboration across sectors – and a shared responsibility for citizens with complex healthcare needs. The project is groundbreaking because the hospital actively contributes to tasks that traditionally lie outside its area of responsibility. We do this through a common ambition to create new and better opportunities for both citizens and staff in municipalities and the region.

Care pathways move across municipalities, general practice, and hospitals. Health Care Closer to Home addresses the reality that citizens do not live within sector boundaries and promotes care that is organized around their needs and challenges the current organizational structures.

Partners' contribution

Zealand University Hospital provides specialized acute medical expertise through an acute hotline to nursing homes. This offers rapid consultation and supports decisions about treatment, further follow-up or hospital admission.

Municipalities ensure local implementation, including new workflows and competence development – and support early detection and local handling of acute situations.

ImagineCare ApS delivers the digital platform that ties the effort together. The platform enables video between nursing homes and the emergency department, supports documentation and sharing of relevant patient data, and provides access to treatment plans, triage algorithm and decision support. The digital support creates a shared overview, faster action, better coherence across sectors, and the possibility to monitor vital signs.



Timeline

Health Care Closer to Home will be carried out as a start-up and testing phase in 2026. During this period, we will develop, test and evaluate the collaboration model, workflows and digital support with a view to later scaling and possible wider rollout.