

About Health Innovation Hub Ireland

Health Innovation Hub Ireland (HIHI) was established by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Health, supported by Enterprise Ireland (EI) and the Health Service Executive (HSE) to drive collaboration between the health service and enterprise. We offer companies the opportunity for pilot and clinical validation studies and the health service access to innovative products, services and devices that they may not otherwise be exposed to. HIHI is built on the recognition that collaboration with enterprise can benefit patient care, patient pathways and outcomes. We assess all concepts

for healthcare innovation from those on the frontline – from clinician to porter. We encourage healthcare professionals to get in touch with HIHI if they have an idea or solution to how something in your job might work better.



HIHI annual call 2020 winners, PacSana are an Enterprise Ireland supported company.

A homecare technology company, PacSana offers a suite of products to help prolong independent living for older people.

Its aim is to enable end users with technology to live longer, happier lives in their own homes.



The Healthcare Challenge

The share of the Irish population aged 65 and over is projected to increase substantially over coming decades. Accordingly, the demand for health and social care services for older people will increase, including demand for home help care and for residential and intermediate care places in nursing homes and other settings. Recent advances in technology and

digital healthcare solutions provide an opportunity to augment traditional healthcare services and keep older or vulnerable people living at home for longer. Technology solutions such as movement sensors can give care teams greater insight into their patients' habits and movement patterns over time, in addition to identifying any causes for concern.

The Healthcare Solution

The PacSana sensors provide critical insight and understanding of users' movement and health status. The data generated can help family members and carers predict possible future issues and react to urgent ones. The primary sensor is a movement tracker contained in a bracelet. The bracelet is slim, light, water resistant and has a battery life of approximately 180 days. The user can wear the bracelet at all times and data is gathered on their activity levels and movement patterns within the home. The data generated is transferred via Bluetooth to gateways located in the home and can be viewed via a dashboard. Alerts for carers and family members can be set up which are tailored to the individual and their particular needs and habits.



HIHI Role

One of the advantages to connected health solutions is their multiple use application across therapy areas. PacSana used the opportunity of working with HIHI to support exploration of potential markets. PacSana were keen to explore, through expert clinical feedback, potential product application and market value across different therapy areas. To achieve this goal, HIHI facilitated a validation study for PacSana. This is a key stage for the company that provides important feedback from end-users and offers the company an opportunity to build a cohort of clinical champions and supports. PacSana outlined to the HIHI team their specific clinical questions and

areas they wished to target. Comprehensive clinical feedback was facilitated using the HIHI national network and the close links HIHI has with clinicians and healthcare institutions across the country. Four separate clinical validations were completed in both acute and community based geriatric and respiratory care settings. Twelve healthcare professionals from a variety of backgrounds participated including consultants, specialist nurses, therapists, social workers and case managers. The HIHI team collated all of the feedback generated during each HIHI session into individual reports, which were reviewed by the clinical teams involved and shared with PacSana.

Outcome Report

The critical access provided by HIHI, to the clinicians who work in the target therapy areas on a daily basis across a variety of regional and healthcare settings, was invaluable to PacSana to improve their understanding of where their technology could add most value across the complex care continuum for these patient groups. Potential markets explored for the company in the HIHI validation study were respiratory care and geriatric care – both acute and in the community. These sessions provided PacSana with an improved understanding of these various services, their organisation, needs and pain points. In the area of geriatric care, a key target market for PacSana, the clinicians involved in this study felt that the sensors would be beneficial for older, frail people living at home.

Those involved discussed the many potential benefits of the technology to them and their patients. Any perceived barriers and limitations were also identified.

This HIHI validation study created useful clinical connections for the company and raised awareness of their technology with a variety of healthcare professionals in a range of healthcare institutions across the country. Resulting from the clinical connections made for the company through this HIHI study, one of the clinical teams involved expressed an interest in piloting the technology with a number of their patients – older adults living in the community. HIHI was able to support the scoping and planning of this project and this will progress to a subsequent full HIHI pilot study with PacSana.

Testimonial

"As a technology company, it has been invaluable to get to speak with clinicians who work daily with geriatric patients. Their feedback has helped us to hone the product, to focus on features that maximise an older person's potential to live independently in their own home. It has also been useful to understand the many different roles within the HSE, who provides the emergency response, how long-term care is organised and the potential for remote monitoring to optimise service delivery. We are hugely appreciative of everyone who took time out to share their pain points, review our solution and provide feedback."

Feargal Duignan, Founder & CEO.
Mark Nolan, Head of Product.



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