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**Somerset patients to benefit from new liver initiative**

**People in Somerset could receive a letter over the next few weeks inviting them for a review of their liver health.**

This initiative, run by Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and local company Predictive Health Intelligence, takes advantage of new technology to identify those who might be at risk of developing liver disease in the future.

Pilot studies at Musgrove Park Hospital have shown that by analysing historic blood test results, doctors can now quickly and easily find people at risk of developing advanced liver disease, allowing them to be treated far earlier. As a result, patients can be called to see a specialist and, if necessary, given advice and treatment to stop serious illness developing.

Dr Tim Jobson, a liver specialist at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust and medical director of Predictive Health Intelligence, said: “Liver disease is the third biggest cause of premature death in working agepeoplein this country but if we find people early in the disease, we can stop it developing. 90% of liver conditions can be effectively treated, but we need to find people ideally before they develop symptoms. This new case finding approach – like the national screening programmes – does exactly that.”

Prof. Daniel Meron, chief medical officer at Somerset NHS Foundation Trust said: “This is a very exciting opportunity to change the way that healthcare is delivered as by finding people earlier, we are making a huge difference to their lives and to the NHS. At a time of intense pressure, using technology that empowers clinicians to get ahead is critical and we're proud to be leading the field, alongside our partners at Predictive Health Intelligence.”

One patient who took part in the early project said: “I love this project as it is proactive and finds people who might not be ill now but can have some help and to make sure they don’t become ill in the future.”

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**About Predictive Health Intelligence**

Predictive Health intelligence is a medical technology company headquartered in Somerset, UK. They have developed a case-finding tool to identify hidden cases of liver disease. This helps to identify patients early, whilst treatment options are available, improving clinical outcomes and reducing the burden of late-stage liver disease on healthcare systems.

Predictive Health Intelligence was founded to improve the health of the nation, one preventable case at a time. It’s the result of a pioneering partnership between expert clinicians, specialists in healthcare information management, and NHS know-how. It is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research.