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The Netherlands/UK

A group of top Dutch health professionals came to look at a Merseyside hospital's innovative IT solutions this week as part of an annual initiative to visit areas of health care excellence in Europe.

The group of 23 experts, drawn from hospitals across the Netherlands, visited Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to look at its new electronic patient records system in action at the University Hospital site.

The visitors, all members of the Dutch Association for Medical Records Administration (NVMA), also found out about how the Trust is using the latest technologies, including touch screens and whiteboards, patient kiosks, automated SMS texting, clinical dashboards and advanced clinical systems.

"This was an enjoyable visit to an impressive hospital", said Wybe Dekker, a leading health information manager from NVMA. "The IT systems are clearly welded into the delivery of patient care at every level".

Bob Smith, a medical manager from NVMA, added: "We were told about how staff were using technology to help patients; by reducing the amount of time patients had to spend in hospital and helping to improve the quality of the service they received. Our visit today has definitely given us plenty of useful ideas to take back to Holland and use in our own medical practices".

Mr Priestman, Aintree's director of informatics, added: "We have always been proud of the innovative culture here at Aintree. We are now seeing levels of Information Technology excellence that is world class, and enabling us to treat our patients in a safer and more timely manner".

For more information, please visit: www.systemc.com

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