



Virtual systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) pre-assessment across Devon and Cornwall Hospitals



This was a collaborative working project between MSD, the Peninsula Cancer Alliance (PCA) and Technical Health Limited.*

Objective

To provide a virtual SACT pre-assessment option and evaluate its impact on patients and hospitals.

Patient benefits^{†1}

6135 patients were positively impacted, across a range of parameters, including:



92 hours of travelling time saved (40 mins per patient average).



602 kg of CO₂ reduced (4.36 kg CO₂ per patient).



£8.35 saved per patient on travel costs, based on estimations.

NHS benefits^{‡1}

196 patients could be pre-assessed virtually, at home, increasing clinical capacity and saving money:



162 nurse hours saved (cost equivalent of £3268).



138 hours of clinical room capacity released.



28% increase in SACT treatment rates.[§]

MSD benefits:¹

- Gained experience in service development initiatives
- Contributed towards the UK government's digital prioritisation plan
- This collaboration may have enabled more patients to access innovative treatments in line with NICE guidance[¶]

MSD are committed to working in partnership with the NHS to enhance current capacity and service delivery. Please use the contact details below to arrange a discussion with a member of the healthcare team.



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Full details of this project can be found at [msd-uk.com/partnerships/collaborative-working](https://www.msd-uk.com/partnerships/collaborative-working)

This link will take you to another MSD website.

*This project was a shared funding commitment from Peninsula Cancer Alliance, Technical Health Limited and MSD.

[†]Over a 12-month period in 2024 across Cornwall and Torbay Hospitals. This is assuming a 47% uptake of virtual pre-assessment versus the in-person option. This has been calculated using NHSE cancer waiting times data.¹

[‡]These results were combined from operational running of SACT virtual pre-assessment service across November 2023 – May 2024 in Torbay and across January 2024 – April 2024 in Cornwall.¹

[§]Figures taken from Torbay. SACT treatment rates increased from 883 patients in February 2024 to 1131 patients in June 2024.¹

[¶]Which may or may not have included MSD medicines.¹

Abbreviations: NHS, National Health Service; NHSE, National Health Service England; NICE, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; PCA, Peninsula Cancer Alliance; SACT, systemic anti-cancer therapy.

Reference: 1. MSD. Collaborative working. Available at: www.msd-uk.com/partnerships/collaborative-working/. Accessed: November 2025.