



We are delighted to announce that our community cardiology project with Bexley Primary Care Trust scooped three awards at the recent Health Service Journal (HSJ) awards: those for Acute and Primary Care Innovation, the Patient-Centred Care award and finally, the Secretary of State for Health's Award for Excellence in Healthcare Management.

It was our partnership with Bexley Care Trust, which put in place a scheme allowing patients from Bexley to travel to the ESC to benefit from a revolutionary CT coronary angiogram with the Aquilion ONE CT scanner.

Our 640-slice scanner, the only one available in independent healthcare in the UK, provides the most accurate coronary angiogram, needing only one heartbeat to deliver a complete 3D image of a patient's heart with the highest degree of accuracy currently available anywhere in the world. This non-invasive investigation costs less than half of that for the usual battery of tests cardiac patients undergo, and takes a fraction of the time. Patients not only benefit from a far shorter waiting time, but their diagnosis is swift and more accurate than ever before meaning that their treatment can start weeks earlier than they can expect with the 'normal' service.

Consultant cardiologist Dr David Brennand-Roper who leads the service said: "These awards are a fantastic recognition of the benefits of this project, which presents an innovative new way of assessing patients with chest pain. This system means we have a much greater chance of getting the diagnosis right first time and avoiding unnecessary invasive angiograms and other less accurate tests."

With the focus on delivering innovative healthcare services and making the most of cutting-edge technology now shifting firmly to GPs, the partnership between the ESC and Bexley clearly demonstrates the huge opportunities to deliver first class services at a local level, and cost-efficiently, particularly where private and public health organisations work closely together.

The project also recently won the prestigious [National Association of Primary Care 'Vision' 2010 Award](#) for best service redesign in the NHS.