I agree the NHS is poor at adopting and spreading innovation. It is important that this is not seen as just technology, but can be as simple as how we involve patients more in their care.

There are real tensions between standardised practice, reducing variation, following professional/national guidance, organisational adherence, professional autonomy and innovation. We haven't adequately developed "space" for innovation, and therefore busy clinicians try and fit it in to their normal routine. Therefore it is poorly evaluated, and not spread or learned from. In addition this raises tension with standardised practice and organisational effectiveness.

Part of the solution is at a local organisational level, not at a national level. Each NHS organisation should create an innovation fund, that enables clinical teams with good ideas or track record to segment a period of time to develop, test and adapt and evaluate innovations, and to learn how to adopt them from elsewhere. This should be outside routine practice as innovation sessions, and once working and effective then brought in to standard practice.

At a regional level, networks (formal and informal) need to be sharing the results of innovation in practice to enable spread.

Perhaps at a national level an innovation tariff could be created that commissioners could award to potentially successful teams.

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