



North West MedTech firm one step closer to ending 'Never Events' after securing funding

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UK

NasoGastric Feeding Solutions (NGFS), a medical device company headquartered in Liverpool, is one step closer to helping end an NHS 'Never Event' after securing £750,000 through a mix of private investment and matched funding from the British Business Bank's Future Fund.

NGFS, a cutting-edge enteral access technology firm, has developed a device called DoubleCHEK™ which uses dual indicators, CO₂ and pH, to prevent the misplacement of feeding tubes into the lungs. The misplacement of a nasogastric tube into the lung is known as a 'never event' in the NHS, which means that it is wholly preventable if current national guidance is followed properly, but it is still surprisingly common.

Existing solutions are either too costly, too big to be compatible with all tube sizes, have accuracy problems discerning lung placement, or only provide information after the tube has been fully inserted. DoubleCHEK™ combines CO₂ and pH indicators with a proprietary valving system to help clinicians place tubes safely and quickly in any environment. NGFS plan to produce additional medical devices over the next two years after receiving considerable interest from institutional investors.

The £750,000 of funding the company has secured will enable it to manufacture the device in the UK and initiate commercialisation beginning in Q2 of 2021. The investment will also be used to obtain FDA approval ahead of the US expansion being led by NGFS's team in Chicago, Illinois.

The investment comes at a difficult time for companies looking to raise funds and was made possible through 'The Future Fund' scheme, which was announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 20th April and provides match funding for companies securing investment during Covid-19. The aim is to provide additional financial support for promising companies so that they can continue growing despite the pandemic and has already provided more than £250m for firms across the country.

DoubleCHEK™ is the brainchild of George Gallagher, who was born with his esophagus and trachea fused together, allowing food and/or stomach acid to enter the lungs. This was later corrected through surgery at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, where nutrition he received through a nasogastric feeding tube was key to his recovery and went on to inspire his invention.

George Gallagher, CEO, NGFS, said *"We are delighted to have secured funding both from private investors and the British Business Bank during what is a difficult time for many early-stage companies. This vital support will help us to introduce DoubleCHEK™ to more hospitals both in the UK and USA and to save lives from an entirely preventable problem."*

Notes to editors:

NGFS is a Liverpool based SME focused on developing cutting edge enteral access technologies designed to assist the clinicians who use them, and to benefit the patients that require them to in their fight to survive life threatening conditions. With both the CE mark and a position on the NHS framework, the DoubleCHEK™ is the first product in a line of many to be released by NGFS over the next two years.

Media Contacts

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