

...with Tracey Hole

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Why did you move into the clinical research field?

I started as a support secretary at the RD&E after having relocated to Devon. My role evolved and I became the QA administrator for Oncology. A vacancy came up in the brand new Research & Development network team and I took a chance on it. I had never been involved in research before and was quite blasé about it, but I wouldn't leave "research" now. It has really got a grip on me.

What does your role as an information analyst entail on a day-to-day basis?

I complete the day-to-day reports for the Senior Management Teams, the Trust, the NIHR, and various other organisations, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly. The most important part of my role as I see it is to continue to data cleanse and ensure that our data is as close to perfect as can be.

How do you utilise EDGE in your everyday practices?

Personally, EDGE is open every minute of every hour whilst I am at work (and sometimes when I'm not!). I was asked to become the EDGE Champion for the Trust and saw it as a challenge. I use EDGE for absolutely everything, from recording monitor visits, to capturing whether studies have been archived,



capturing capacity in certain areas, as well as setting up local attributes to remind me which quarter studies have been reported to the NIHR for our PID reporting.

What personal skills do you feel have been enhanced by the deployment and familiarity of EDGE?

Cross team cover where all team members, from administrators to principal investigators, know where they are on each study. This involves knowing how many recruits are needed and have been recruited, it means that relevant and correct versions of patient related information are available to all, and to top it all off, it is all based on live data.

Which aspects of EDGE have provided the most pleasure?

EDGE is evolving on a daily basis. I can see where potentially new areas/teams could be utilising our information to better their own departments. Seeing the use of EDGE grow across all clinical areas, to include the CRF, support departments, and hopefully pharmacy going forward provides pleasure.

Describe one of the greatest achievements of the research team at your hospital.

Too many to just choose one, but if we were just talking about research then it would be having such an inspiring research team, eager to ensure that we use EDGE to the max. In the first year of using the EDGE finance tool, we found that we were much more accurate at recording additional patient costs which made a significant difference then, and has continued to make a difference each subsequent year.

One challenge that you think clinical research faces:

Finance – say no more.

One great thing that you think clinical research has achieved:

Putting dementia to the forefront of research – pure and simple. We all grow old and research may be able to help those that have never been able to be helped before.

One hope for the future of clinical research:

I think it's the one that everyone wants, and that's a cure for cancer.

One treasured possession:

My wedding and engagement ring, both of which belonged to my great grandmother and have been passed down through the years, full of sentimental value and I am proud to be able to wear them in her memory.

One of your greatest achievements:

Flying to New Zealand. Absolutely terrified of flying and never got out of my seat once during the connecting flights, there or back. I did it though. Admittedly, I had to stay a further 4 weeks in NZ as I just couldn't face the flight back.

One of your favourite cultural destinations, and why?

Definitely Great Britain. There are so many places to seek out; beautiful scenery, stunning buildings, heritage and history – you don't need to go abroad to have diversity in your life.

One piece of EDGE functionality that resembles your personality:

Attributes – think about them logically and put them in order, everything else will follow!

Want to see your trust represented?

Email us at
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