Q&A Coffee Sessions

with EDGE super users

EDGE?

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Super User!

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How and why did you move into clinical research?
I needed a more varied administration role within the NHS.

What does your role as Senior Clinical Trials Administrator at Royal Devon and Exeter NHS FT entail on a daily basis?
In my role, I run the administration for a portfolio of studies (in my case, it is stroke and cardiovascular studies). This involves me providing an administrative role to the team's nurses, which could be anything from writing a letter, to maintenance of the study's site files.

How do you utilise EDGE in your daily role?
Recording of new participants in a study and follow up visits, plus addition of associated costs, to reflect the clinical work undertaken by research staff.

In light of the pandemic, how has your role changed over the past 12 months? And how has these changes affected the way that you use EDGE?
The pandemic has seen both a reduction and an increase in research work. The reduction is because many hospitals have restricted the number of patients being seen, but the increase is, of course, because research into COVID-19 treatments and vaccines is and has been urgently required.

Your team have been carrying out various COVID-19 trials on behalf of your Trust, including the vaccine study on behalf of Public Health England. How has your team's use of EDGE helped to facilitate these projects? (Any use of new EDGE features or functionality?)
The reporting function has enabled us to more accurately record how many patients we have in the vaccine study and at what stage they are at.

What are your plans for using and developing EDGE within your department over the

next 12 months (taking into account COVID-19?)

Increase our usage of the workflow function to more accurately show at what stage we are at on certain areas (e.g., setup of new study or the approval of an amendment).

You have been using EDGE for over 7 years now! How has your use of EDGE changed during this course of this time?

EDGE is now used more for reporting purposes, such as patient numbers or monies owed to the Trust. This ensures that a study is meeting its recruitment target as opposed to just recording patient's names, demographics etc. The workflows are now used so that we can monitor where a study is at in a certain procedure (e.g., in set up or subject to an amendment).

What is your "bigger picture?" That is, what do you find most fulfilling about your job?

The knowledge that the administrative service that I provide is key in the task of providing important research into a certain disease.

Describe one of the greatest achievements of your research team:

The involvement in the national research to develop an approved vaccine for COVID-19.

How would you increase and enhance opportunities for patients to participate in clinical trials in the future?

Greater use of methods to increase people's knowledge that research into pressing medical conditions are taking place every day. The one thing that the pandemic has done is to increase people's awareness of research. I quite often get: "Research. That's what you're involved with, isn't it"?

One new personal skill that you've learned over the past year/during the pandemic:

The ability to switch tasks (or even study at short notice).

The best thing about living in Devon/Exeter?

The area. It has proximity all the different types of area (i.e., the countryside, the coast and the city).

And finally, and perhaps most importantly, in which way does EDGE resemble your personality:

Efficient, organised, helpful!

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