

# Q&A Coffee Sessions

## with EDGE super users

EDGE?



Super User!

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### How and why did you move into your current role within clinical research?

Prior to joining the team at East Lancashire Hospitals, I worked in a research network position for 13 years. After being part of the LPMS CPMS roll out in a business intelligence position, it was time for a change and a new challenge.

### What does your role as Research Development Coordinator at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust entail on a daily basis?

Every day is different. When I first started in the position, it was a steep learning curve. Not only is a trust role demanding, but I joined at the start of the pandemic which brought its own challenges. The support office is the central point that everything to do with research goes through. We are involved with the study from its early stage of interest through to the end with archiving and everything in between by supporting the delivery teams - except for patient recruitment.

### How has your role within clinical research changed over the past 12 months?

The day of my interview for this job was the day that the team recruited their first patient to a COVID study. Commencing a job during a pandemic was quite lonely in some respects; I was unable to meet people as you usually would as meetings were held over MS Teams, and social distancing is in place in the offices. But turnaround times have been quicker and slicker and much less paper is used as we move towards electronic signatures and DocuSign etc.

### How do you utilise EDGE in your daily role?

EDGE has been pivotal in recording as much of our research information as possible without the need for spreadsheets. We have recently implemented EDGE within our teams and are starting to use more functionality every day. We record when a study comes to us, and whether we proceed or decline (and why). All milestones are recorded and, of course, screening and recruitment. Entities and attributes feature heavily in recording everything we do. Also, our staff list is being developed so that we can track letters of access, training, and CVs. Currently, we are working on implementing the finance section, inputting costing templates, and ticking off the activity as it takes place.

### East Lancashire NHS Trust have recently adopted EDGE and are rolling out the system - the first trust to do so within the region. How have you instigated training of new EDGE users across your trust, and how is it going?

Everyone in the R&I team have been successfully trained to use EDGE in their day-to-day work, and we've received many comments

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about how easy it is to use. The pharmacy team are also on board and are looking forward to seeing how it will benefit them. Our cancer team have taken its use to beyond expectations, and are using EDGE to record appointments, SAEs, and follow up types, etc. The team are currently testing the commercial costing template that Stevie Barre has developed and supported us to implement.

### What early wins have you detected since the adoption of EDGE at the trust?

Tracking without the use of a spreadsheet. All the information is in one place.

### As a Research Development Coordinator at your site, what is your favourite functionality to use in EDGE, and why?

Entities and attributes - they offer so much versatility and the ability to record everything from set up information, recording what patient activities are required, as well as any information required around archiving.

### What are your site's plans for using and developing EDGE over the next 12 months?

We are in the early days of using the finance functionality, but it is very exciting to be moving forward with this. In the next month or so, we have a finance officer starting in post and I am looking forward to working with them to work out a process where we are proactively invoicing.

### One hope for the future of EDGE and R&D?

I would like to see an attribute where you are able to select another option depending on the first option you selected. In addition, it would be great to have patient and project attribute reports merged so you can run one report without the need for lookups.

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

I like to think we are all making a difference to the advances in medicines and treatments. The pandemic has shown us what is possible.

### One challenge that you think clinical research faces?

As with many other sectors, a lack of staff.

### One clinical research superpower that you wish you possessed:

Speed - there are not enough hours in a day!

### One thing that people might not know about you:

In my younger days, I worked on a cruise ship and was lucky enough to visit many beautiful countries around the world. Ever since then, I have a passion for travel and seeing new places.

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

Checking that people are okay.

By Ken Brackstone, Clinical Informatics Research Unit