

East Midlands & South Yorkshire



Research Site Initiative Scheme (RSI)

For 2010/11, we have seen the RSI Scheme expand across the whole of the Primary Care Research Network East Midlands and South Yorkshire (PCRN EMSY) region.

We are very grateful to the three Comprehensive Local Research Networks (CLRN) in our patch – Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland (LNR), Trent and South Yorkshire – for contributing to the development of primary care research infrastructure in our region and providing the funding to enable this.

The EMSY scheme closely aligns itself to the national vision, which seeks to promote standardisation across such schemes with the aim of improving transparency, equity and value for money. It also benefits from being simple to understand.

There are two tiers under RSI. Practices new to research generally feel most comfortable applying for Level One, while the more experienced practice teams welcome the opportunities presented by Level Two. Funding for Level One is set at £1,500 per annum and Level Two at £5,500. Regardless of level, all participating practices receive 50 per cent of their RSI monies up front and the remainder at year end, subject to performance. Sites continue to be eligible for service support costs on all portfolio studies undertaken.

The scheme incorporates both monitoring and performance management as part of normal support activity, so both the practice and PCRN EMSY can be reassured there will be no surprises at year end.

Places at Level One are allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis, with all Level Two applications reviewed and considered by a panel.

LNR - RSI was rolled out in LNR during 2009/10, when it was called the incentive scheme, which was very successful. This year, the number of practices participating at both levels has increased. Each practice has a dedicated PCRN staff member who is their first point of contact. Each practice also benefits from support from a GP Facilitator, who is able to advise how to fit research around clinical commitments.

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NIHR Flexibility and Sustainability Funding (NIHR FSF)

This is additional funding received by DH to attract, develop and retain the research workforce necessary for delivering high-quality health research. NIHR FSF can also be used to provide backfill cover for members attending training, such as GCP or Research Ready. For more information on applying for FSF, please contact Louise Young (Network Manager) or Najma Vayani (Assistant Management Accountant) on 0116 295 8096 and 0116 295 1119 respectively.

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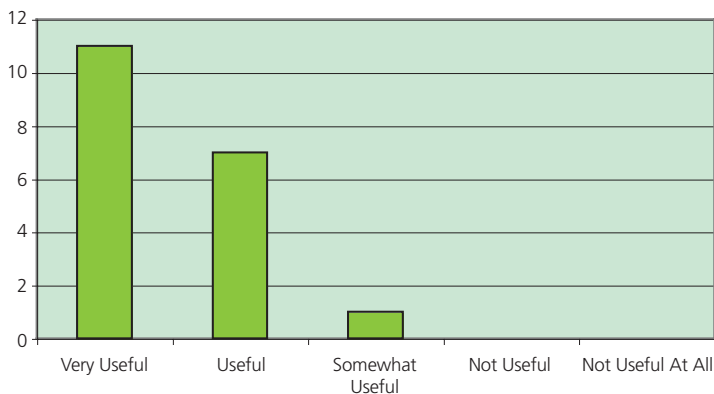
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GCP South Yorkshire

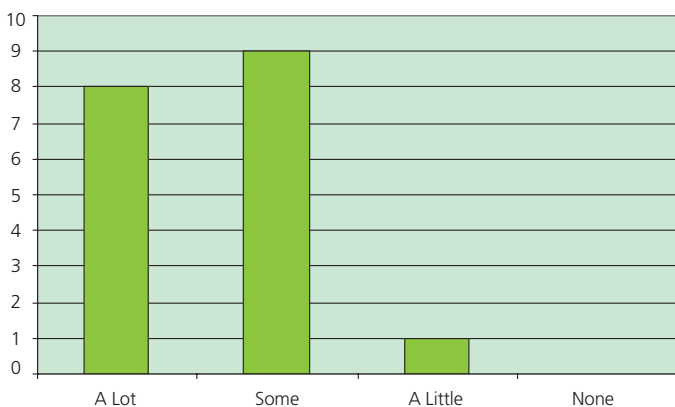
We held a Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Research Day in South Yorkshire on May 6. The course was delivered by Dr Amrit Takhar and Jane Elwood from Wansford and Kings Cliffe Practice. Amrit and Jane are experienced research professionals who work closely with NIHR CRN and PCRN; Dr Takhar is also GP Facilitator for our LNR hub.

The aim was to introduce the key principles of GCP, the EU Directive on Clinical Trials and the UK legislation on Clinical Trials, as well as highlight day-to-day aspects that are specifically significant to primary care clinical research. The course was attended by a mixture of primary care professionals including GPs, practice nurses, practice managers, dentists and pharmacists. Altogether we had 19 attendees – which is a great turn-out! As you can see from the evaluation, the course proved to be a great success.

How Useful



Anticipated Changes



Research Site Initiative Scheme (RSI)

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Trent

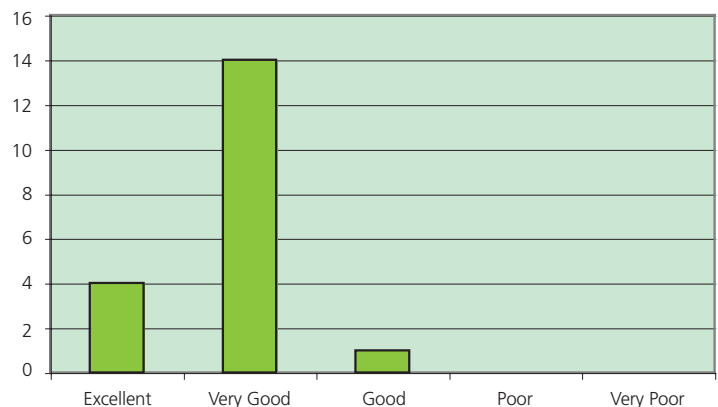
Practice interest in the scheme has surpassed expectations, though there are a limited number of places at both levels still available. If you are interested in applying, we strongly encourage you to contact Nathalie Bailey-Flitter, Locality Manager (details on front page), as soon as possible. Any portfolio study undertaken since April 1, 2010 will count towards your RSI requirement!

South Yorkshire

The Cutler Group, as the RSI is called in South Yorkshire, was set up in September 2009 and currently has 15 practices participating. We hold quarterly meetings, chaired by an academic GP from the Academic Unit of Primary Care Medicine, University of Sheffield, and attended by participating practices and PCRN EMSY staff. We are in a transition year as PCRN takes over the administration for this group from 2010/11 onwards.

We continue to also work with many primary care sites that are currently not part of any formal scheme, and this is very important to us. We are committed to supporting all professionals during study set-up and roll-out and also to ensure that access to training is available to all. Please continue to access the NIHR training website or contact us for further details.

Overall Impression



With that in mind, we are repeating the event on October 7 at The Source Meadowhall, Sheffield. If you are interested in attending, please contact Sarah Nutbrown on 01302 566085 or sarah.nutbrown@doncasterpct.nhs.uk.

studies in progress

MIA - Management and Intervention in Asthma



The MIA research study has been developed to use and assess a collaborative model of children's health intervention design focusing on minority groups. The MIA team believes that collaboratively developed interventions will be more practical for use in the NHS and more acceptable to both families and professionals by empowering children and their families to take a leading role in their healthcare.

The study will explore the perceptions and experiences of parents and children, the attitudes and experiences of the wider community in relation to child health and those of healthcare professionals involved in commissioning or delivering services for children and families. Integral to the study is an assessment of the feasibility of such collaborative working.

Principal Investigator:
Dr Monica Lakhanpaul

Funding Organisation:
**NIHR Health Services
Research Programme**

When: **Sept 2010 – Aug 2012**

Where: **Leicester City only**

MIA is using Asthma in South Asian children as an example condition and group; asthma being the commonest chronic condition of childhood and South Asian children with asthma suffering poorer health and outcomes than their white counterparts. On completion, MIA will provide evidence to be used when tailoring and delivering intervention programmes by providing a template for child, family, community and professional collaboration in intervention design that will be transferrable to children with other chronic conditions or from other population groups.

For further information, see www.pcrn-emsy.org.uk/research-portfolio



Patient Identifiable Data – Reminder

All NHS organisations are under a legal, moral and professional obligation to ensure the confidentiality of personal data. Bearing this in mind, please note that when submitting an invoice, no patient identifiable data should be included, for example patient name or date of birth.

Please also see the website for details of Expedition, a pilot study that aims to characterise health behaviours and beliefs of young people aged 18 to 30 with T2DM. It is running in both Leicester City and Leicestershire County.

Booster

A randomised controlled trial and cost-effectiveness evaluation of "booster" interventions to sustain increases in physical activity in middle-aged adults in deprived urban neighbourhoods.

This study assesses whether it is worth providing further support, three months after giving initial advice, to those who have managed to do more physical activity. Study candidates (n=1,500) will be given an interactive DVD, supported by advice from a

trained facilitator. The facilitator will provide two telephone follow-ups at one-month intervals.

Only those who have increased their physical activity at this point (n=600) will be randomised into the study. These participants will receive a "mini booster", a "full booster" or no booster. The "mini booster" consists of two telephone calls one month apart to discuss physical activity and usage of the DVD. A "full booster" consists of a face-to-face meeting with the facilitator at the same intervals.

The purpose of these sessions is to help the individual maintain their increase in physical activity. We will measure the differences in physical activity, quality of life and costs associated with the booster interventions, three months and nine months from randomisation. The research will be carried out in 20 of the most deprived neighbourhoods in Sheffield. These locations have large, ethnically diverse populations, high levels of economic deprivation and low levels of physical activity, poorer health and shorter life expectancy.

For more information, please contact Michelle Horspool (details on front page).

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Pioglitazone: a novel therapeutic agent for asthma?

Asthma continues to cause significant morbidity to those it affects despite current treatments. Therefore novel therapeutic agents must be found. Pioglitazone (a Peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma ligand) has been identified as a potential novel therapy at the University of Nottingham.

We are currently recruiting to a randomised placebo-controlled trial to evaluate the efficacy of 12 weeks' treatment with Pioglitazone on a range of clinical and biological endpoints in asthma. As many of the potential participants with mild-moderate asthma rarely require input from secondary care, we are asking for your help in recruitment.

We are seeking 100 participants with a clinical diagnosis of mild-moderate asthma who are prescribed inhaled as-required bronchodilators or additional inhaled corticosteroid. Participants are not eligible to enter the trial if they take long-acting beta agonists or have established cardiovascular, liver disease or diabetes mellitus.

All the study visits will occur at Nottingham City Hospital and participants will be reimbursed for their travelling expenses. The study is funded by the Medical Research Council and the Nottingham Respiratory Biomedical research Unit.

For more information, please contact Dr John Anderson (john.anderson@nottingham.ac.uk) or Nathalie Bailey-Flitter (details on front page).

To see the many other studies currently in progress, please see www.pcrn-emsy.org.uk.



descended from Darwin

Patients can help doctors and nurses find new treatments at their own GP surgery. Research-active GP practice staff in Chesterfield are taking new inspiration from an old son of the town – Charles Darwin's grandfather, Erasmus.

With support from the Primary Care Research Network East Midlands & South Yorkshire, GPs at the Wheatbridge Health Village have set up a research institute so patients can volunteer for studies. The first studies taken up have been looking at swine flu, lung fibrosis and preventing eczema in babies. The doctors and nurses hope that offering chances nearer to home will inspire people to help find new treatments and tests.

Erasmus Darwin, educated in Chesterfield, was a physician, inventor and founder of a school. He never found the fame of his illustrious grandson, Charles, but he did work in new ways to try to help the people in the "Midlands Enlightenment". Two hundred and fifty years on, doctors and nurses are asking Chesterfield patients to shed some light on more modern diseases.

The research institute's lead GP, Dr Mark Loveland, said, "The Wheatbridge Health Village has brought together two Chesterfield GP surgeries. This is along with dental patients, a sexual health clinic and pharmacy, and now a research institute. We'll be offering people a chance to join in important studies on causes and treatment of disease. We'll be working with the local NHS, charities and researchers from all over the UK. Like giving blood or hospital voluntary work, this is a way to give something back. As a GP, it also means more time to learn

new faces

Welcome to two new members of staff, **Sharon Perdesi** and **Nasir Shaikh**.

Sharon is the new **Clinical Studies Development Officer** for Derbyshire County, and will act as a resource and support to GP practices and other primary care professionals throughout Derbyshire, in the recruitment and delivery of portfolio studies. You can contact her on 07768 803672 or sharonperdesi@nhs.net.

Nasir is the new **Portfolio Information Officer**, based at the Network's Co-ordinating Centre in Leicester, and is responsible for maintaining information on our local portfolio of studies across the network. Contact him on Nasir.Shaikh@emsy.nhs.uk or 0116 295 1461.

more about our patients and their health problems."

Funding comes from Trent Comprehensive Local Research Network via NHS Derbyshire County, along with the medical research charities and local universities. This allows research to be an additional service, not something that takes staff away from patient care, and the institute has employed a dedicated research nurse to support people who want to volunteer. There are research appointments, telephone consultations, letters and a website for people who want to find out more. In the evolution of health research like this institute, Erasmus Darwin is an inspiration to those who follow.

Read more at www.wheatbridge.org.uk

To learn more about the network, its staff and activities, please visit www.pcrn-emsy.org.uk