

## Innovation Fund bid

Half of most practices' workload relates to long term conditions. The Fed has submitted a bid worth £240,000, in conjunction with the Ipswich & East Suffolk CCG, to enable East and West practices to look at ways of sharing best practice in the management of LTCs.

## £5 a patient

Detailed implementation packs have been sent to the 32 of 40 East practices who elected to deliver the £5 a patient initiative using their Federation. The packs cover special patient notes, end of life planning and nurse visits to the housebound with long term conditions.

The templates and searches are automatically embedded in SystemOne. As the Fed updates them centrally, so they are automatically updated at each practice. There are also packs for EMIS practices. This approach is designed to minimise work at practice level and, if successful, can be used again in future.

If any West practices would like the packs please email David Pannell.

## Re-arranged sharing good practice workshop

The next workshop will be on 25 September, 7pm at Stowhealth. It features the meeting cancelled in June:

- **Practical benefits of practices working more closely together** - Jane Wallace (Wickham Market) and Mike Barstow (Framlingham). Deben Health is the locality of six practices around Woodbridge increasingly working together - sharing staff, working up LES/DES pathways, tackling DNAs, running PPGs collaboratively and comparing financial data. The group may be a model for future collaboration in other localities.
- **The lessons from a three practice merger**— Karen Mitchell (GP) and Jonathan Knights (Practice Manager) East Norfolk Practices, Great Yarmouth

Please email [admin@suffolkfed.org.uk](mailto:admin@suffolkfed.org.uk) if you want to come.

## East Suffolk ultrasound

Difficulties with recruitment means the US service is struggling with waiting times. A new sonographer has been appointed but will not start until October. Paul Driscoll has written to all GPs with pointers for making best use of the service:

- Include clinical information as it improves diagnostic accuracy. Particularly useful are laboratory investigations such as LFTs and Ca 125.
- Ensure basic demographic information such as dob and NHS is also included as we cannot enter them on the booking system without this.
- Only tick the boxes you need. Note it takes twice as long to do a pelvic and abdominal ultrasound and we only get a single fee.

A number of practices have asked about information governance and the audit form which the sonographers use. 10% of all scans and their reports are checked by a consultant as part of their quality audit. The Fed is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office, has robust IG procedures and the release of patient medical information meets Caldicott guidelines. Practices can safely and correctly release patient names for the audit without seeking further consent from the patient.

## Practice visits

Sometimes members mention they would like an informal practice visit, and either Tim Reed or David Pannell are very happy to come along. Please email either of us.

## Medical director and new joiners

As your Federation develops, more clinical expertise is required on the Executive. To date the Chair has also discharged the Medical Director role but this will now be a separate position for one session a week, and is open to any doctor on the Suffolk Performers List. Why not email David Pannell for the job description?

Recent staff joiners are:

- Linda West is familiar to many of us having previously worked with the LMC. Linda joins us as Practice Services Director for three months.
- Frances Hounslow is a chartered accountant from BAe and replaces Sue Young as Finance Manager.

## Training

Each practice must have a Senior Risk Information Officer (SIRO) and over 30 GPs and managers recently attended training organised in response to demands from members.

Coming up is a practice manager development programme covering topical issues.

Comments please to [tim.reed@suffolkfed.org.uk](mailto:tim.reed@suffolkfed.org.uk)