

Suffolk GP development programme

Feedback from students and newly qualified GPs suggest recruitment and retention could be improved if we were able to offer a career development programme like some larger London practices such as the Hurley Group.

We are interested members' views, particular salaried GPs, of what this might include – for example

- **Development for non clinical practice roles** such as QoF, LTC management, leadership, meeting skills, teamworking & practice development planning
- **So you want to be a partner?** - roles & responsibilities of partners including finance & contracting
- **Clinical development** as a cardiology or dermatology clinical assistant, job swaps with other Fed practices or secondments to New Zealand or Australia
- We can also run a workshop for those considering retirement but wanting to continue their career as a locum.

If you have any ideas please email them to David Pannell or send them via twitter

Do you have an interest in cardiology?

The East CCG is tendering an intermediate community cardiology service which the Fed has piloted in Woodbridge and Stowmarket. The clinics are led by an IHT consultant working alongside GP clinical assistants. Patients can be referred with non-urgent chest pain, palpitations & AF, funny turns, dizziness & syncope or SOB.

If the Fed bid is successful, East & West GPs can work in the clinics after completing training in the New Year. For governance purposes you should plan to do at least 12 clinics per annum. Please email David Pannell if interested.

East Suffolk community ultrasound

To date, recommendations about further investigation of US abnormalities has come from several sources and has sometimes generated different views. In future, all such guidance will come from the radiologists at IHT.

When referring, please ensure clinical information is and the reason for referral is complete. The service can deal with:

- General abdominal - liver, gall bladder, pancreas, spleen, kidneys, and aorta
- Renal/bladder
- Female pelvis
- Male testicular

- Lumps & bumps e.g. is it a cyst or lipoma? Muscle tear and tendons need to go to IHT
 - Only patients aged 17 & over
- Excluded - Maternity, breast, hernia & thyroid (refer to endocrinologists).

Election of Fed Chair

Tim Reed was elected by the new Board as Fed Chair for a period of 12 months.

Defence cover—are you with MDU?

If you are with MDU and do not want to move to MDDUS it is worth asking them to match the latter's cheaper rate. Some member practices have reported that MDU have offered practices discounts that match MDDUS—saving £800 per GP.

North East Essex diabetes contract

The Federation has signed a five year £10m contract to manage North East Essex diabetes services including hospital outpatients, community and primary care. It is an innovative outcomes based contract where 25% of income is tied to delivery of upper quartile performance for HbA1c, cholesterol and annual checks.

The model includes primary care development, patient involvement and education, reaching non engaged patients and a community diabetologist and support team. There will be a resource shift worth £6.97 per list patient over the five years. Your Federation will be partnering with the local GP group, Colchester Hospital and the podiatry provider.

Practice liability to the Fed

We have received some questions on the financial liability of member practices to the Fed, for example if it were to become insolvent. Our solicitor has drafted a full response with the summary below:

Each practice is only "liable" for the amount that it has subscribed and there is no further financial liability for each practice. Any contracts that Suffolk Fed enter into are in its own name and not the name of the practice members. Should there be any difficulties arising under such contracts then this would rest at the door of Suffolk Fed and not the individual practice members. There is therefore no joint and several liability issue as the liability stays with the company.

Any comments?

Please email the Chair tim.reed@suffolkfed.org.uk