

East dermatology tender—open meeting 17 October (post Trinity Park)

The East CCG has started the process of tendering dermatology, including the GPwSI and secondary care services. The Fed is keen to lead a local bid, jointly with IHT & WSH. There is an opportunity for primary care to be involved and to be paid for the work. One option could include suitably qualified GP colleagues managing referrals from neighbouring practices for conditions such as acne, eczema, solar keratoses, cellular naevi and warts.

Although we have to move quickly, please come along and put forward your own ideas at a short open meeting, following the 17th October Trinity Park event at 5.30pm. We will be able to present options for how such a service might work in practice. Please ensure your practice is represented as this could be the only opportunity for detailed discussion.

Important contract win

The Fed has won a £2m a year, 5 year contract to manage the diabetes service in North East Essex. Our proposal included a raft of innovative ideas including using the Care Planning approach, involving patients in the delivery of services, targeting hard to reach groups, and deploying a community based Diabetologist. Central to the approach is to incentivise practices to develop skills and shift care into the community, with specialist support teams and a LES worth £1.80 per list patient.

This is a flagship contract which demonstrates we can successfully bid for large contracts and puts us firmly on the map. It also develops our experience which we can use for similar Suffolk contracts, such as dermatology. Finally, It ensures our financial viability which has been achieved independently of the Suffolk CCGs.

Update on services

Suffolk Locum chambers

The Fed organised an initial meeting to discuss forming a locum chambers and there seems to be interest in moving forward. If you are interested or want to know more please email Richard Fieldhouse (richard.fieldhouse@pallantmedical.org.uk). If you would like to join the Suffolk Chamber please email David Pannell and he will send you the link.

Clinical research

If you wish to undertake research studies please contact Sue Diggines on 07885 968 806 sue.diggines@suffolkfed.org.uk.

Managing demand workshop—7pm 15 October—Stowhealth

If you are interested in telephone triage, this workshop will hear about the experiences of Ravenswood and Stowhealth.

Buying defence cover from MDDUS

There is an average saving of £800 per GP over if practices move to MDDUS. A named individual will manage our account, there is a 5% bulk discount and MDDUS will run training sessions locally. Your PM has the details. The deal will be extended to West practices before Christmas, and the exercise will be replicated for locum insurance.

Federation HR package

PMs have negotiated discounted HR support with AP Partnership for £20 per employee per annum. Details have been sent to your PM.

East ultrasound

1,045 East patients were scanned in September, up by 51% against 2012, and maintaining a wait time of 1-2 weeks is a challenge. It helps if patients are aware the shortest waiting time may be a neighbouring surgery rather than their own.

West practices joining The Fed

So far 15 of 24 practices have confirmed they will join the Fed with five partner meetings scheduled for the next six weeks and 4 practices still considering. In the middle of November we will send out joining details, hold elections and once the new Board is in place prepare the members' agreement.

The Fed in the news

- The Lymphoedema team in the West have received local press coverage for walking 1.6m steps to raise awareness
- The Fed has been shortlisted for Innovator of the Year in the 2013 General Practice Awards.

East Board elections

Simon Rudland (SBS), Paul Driscoll (CIA) and Jane Wallace (East PMs) are elected unopposed. There will be elections for Ipswich and DHG GPs and Ipswich PM with ballot papers going out via PMs to be returned by 8 November.

Please comment to the Chair at tim.reed@suffolkfed.org.uk