Super User Q&A: Nov 2022

“Since joining the R&I team at the beginning of 2021, the use of EDGE has become integrated into my day-to-day tasks. It’s a useful workload management tool and it also helps with collaborative working within the team, as anyone can review the status of a particular project and pick up from there if needed.”

– Amelia Lowe, Research Management Facilitator, University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS FT

USER PROFILE

Name: Amelia Lowe
Organisation: University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
Job Title: Research Management Facilitator
Email: Amelia.Lowe@uhbw.nhs.uk
EDGE user since: 2013

01

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

I’ve worked in research for the last 9 years or so, with my previous roles being in trial co-ordination within research delivery teams. Having gained some operational experience, I was keen to work in a team where I’d get an overview of the varied and exciting research going on throughout the Trust, which is what my current role offers.

02

What does your role as Research Management Facilitator entail on a typical day at UHBW?

There are a number of aspects to my current role, so each day can be quite different. I work alongside research delivery teams on study set-up and capacity and capability reviews. I’m involved in the commercial research side of things, which includes managing study feasibility requests, completing costing reviews, and invoicing for commercial trials. I play a role in reviewing and developing quality management documents (our standard operating procedures and guidance documents) and I also work with researchers on the set-up and delivery of locally sponsored research.

03

What does the patient and research landscape currently look like at UHBW?

UHBW is made up of 10 hospital sites and there are at least 10 established research teams who work within different clinical specialities across the Trust. There are also smaller staff groups who run research outside of these established units. As a large regional centre, we’re involved in many different types of studies, including early phase research, advanced therapy IMP trials, and studies in rare diseases.

04

You’ve been using EDGE for over 9 years. How do you personally utilise EDGE in your daily role?

EDGE is an essential part of my work as a Research Management Facilitator. Within the Research and Innovation team, we have a number of local workflows and attributes which we add to each project on EDGE to document progress (e.g., with study set-up, amendments and sponsorship applications).

/continued…

05

What is your favourite functionality to use in EDGE and why?

The reporting function and specifically creating a regular report on my current active studies. I run a report on a regular basis which lists the studies I'm currently working on and what the local status of each of these are. This gives me a quick overview of my workload and prompts me to pick up what I need to over the coming days.

06

In what ways has your use of EDGE changed and evolved over the past 9 years?

In previous research delivery roles, the primary focus was to ensure that recruited patients had been added to EDGE to accurately capture accruals. Since joining the R&I team at the beginning of 2021, the use of EDGE has become integrated into my day-to-day tasks. It's a useful workload management tool and it also helps with collaborative working within the team, as anyone can review the status of a particular project and pick up from there if needed.

07

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

I'm interested to see the improved functionality that EDGE 3 will bring. In particular, we will be looking at whether using EDGE finance could have potential benefits for us for tracking commercial trial payments.

08

If you could offer one tip for new EDGE users working in research, what would it be?

When a new RMF joins the team, I always highlight how useful it is to document the current local status of studies in set-up. We use an attribute to capture this and, going back to one of my previous answers, I can then run a report listing all my active studies which gives an overview list of where each one is up to and what I should be following-up on.

09

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

Working with colleagues from various teams that span the breadth of the Trust and being involved in research that offers new treatment options for patients and research that leads to a change in standard of care.

10

Describe one of your team's greatest achievements:

Adapting processes so quickly to deal with the demanding timelines of COVID-19 vaccine studies and COVID-related research.

11

One clinical research superpower that you wish you possessed:

Maybe the ability to absorb and remember all the information within large documents simply by hovering over the file. Not the most exciting superpower but it would definitely be very handy for reviewing large volumes of study documents like protocols and manuals.

12

One challenge that you think clinical research faces within management/facilitation:

Working on the Quality Management System is an ongoing challenge as processes evolve and the procedural documents need to be constantly reviewed and updated. It's something we're continuously working on, but there's always more to be done!

13

One thing that people might not know about you:

I used to own a VW camper van. I bought it as an empty shell and eventually managed to turn it into a habitable space. Unfortunately, I only managed to take 3 trips in it before I had to sell it on due to the ongoing expense of the mechanical upkeep. Now I admire other people's vans without worrying about the cost!

14

One thing that inspires you:

The goodwill of colleagues and the willingness of different teams to come together to achieve a common goal for the benefit of patients.

By Ken Brackstone
Clinical Informatics Research Unit
K.Brackstone@soton.ac.uk