

Q&A Coffee Sessions

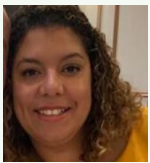
with EDGE super users



Super User Q&A: Jan 2023

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– Amy Smith, Commercial Research Manager, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust



USER PROFILE

Name: Amy Smith
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EDGE user since: 2016

01

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

I fell into a career in research management in 2008 when the Comprehensive Clinical Research Networks were established. Initially joining as the Administrator, I transitioned through various roles at the CRN in my 8 years there and have held various research management roles in local Trusts since 2015, landing in my current role just over a year ago.

02

What does your role as Commercial Research Manager within RD&I at UHB entail on a typical day?

My role is to represent the organisation to our commercial partners. I aim to provide clear and concise information, support effective problem solving, and support innovation in research management to ensure that we continue to deliver a great customer experience for our commercial partners, and offer a variety of opportunities for patients to participate in research. In addition, I lead the Project Support Team, responsible for management and development of EDGE and other research management tools/systems (i.e., Power BI), and lead the R&D Costings Team who oversee all of our commercial contracts and research income.

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

In 2022/23, UHB opened 320 studies, recruiting >9,000 patients across 4 main hospital sites. We currently have >750 active users of EDGE.

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How do you personally utilise EDGE in your daily role?

We use EDGE on a daily basis to support research management across the organisation. We have built key processes into EDGE such as study setup, amendments, tracking agreements, and research passports etc. with the combined use of Power BI. This enables us to manage the vast and varied data that we have in a simple summary format, therefore facilitating our processes.

05

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

My favourite functionality is reporting. It is so easy to build custom reports and extract data.

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Users are not reliant on others to produce reports, and we can create and share a report which users can run as they need to.

06

In what ways has your use of EDGE changed and evolved over the past 4 years?

Initially, like most Trusts it was used to maintain the minimum mandatory dataset. However, as we have become more confident and began to understand how best to harness the potential of EDGE, we have incorporated more data/processes into our routine ways of working. This has offered opportunities to review and streamline processes and provides a greater degree of transparency across the organisation.

07

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

We are using EDGE as our primary research management system now, and we are currently developing EDGE Finance and Sponsorship at our sites.

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

The importance of maintaining Project Records – working with various sponsors and often sifting through the masses of data in EDGE, it's important to be able to quickly identify accurate information. We're at the mercy of Project Owners to accurately populate and maintain data as this is often not editable. This limits other sites potential use of EDGE if it's not fully and

accurately maintained.

09

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

It is always nice meeting with sponsors, being able to solve a problem, and seeing our shared achievements such as the first participant recruited in the UK. But the bit that is most fulfilling is seeing the portfolio grow in breadth and size, meaning that our local population get access to more studies which offers innovations, new patient pathways, and potential treatment options.

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Describe one of your team's greatest achievements:

This year, with the use of EDGE we developed an internal digital research dashboard. This has supported us in increasing transparency across the organisation, and contributed to reducing setup times across the organisation, consequently supporting improved relationships with our sponsors.

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