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Q&A Coffee Sessions
with EDGE super users

Super User Q&A: March 2024

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USER PROFILE

Name: Donna Foster
Organisation: The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust
Job Title: Clinical Trials Data Manager
Email: donna.foster11@nhs.net
EDGE user since: 2023

01

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

I have worked in the NHS for the past 12 years in the Microbiology department as a Biomedical Scientist but recently moved to the Research, Development, and Innovation department. In my previous role, especially during COVID, I got to work closely with the research team, and this sparked my interest to work in clinical research, and last year I joined the team at Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust (PAHT).

02

What does your role as Clinical Trials Data Manager entail on a typical day?

In my role as Clinical Trials Data Manager, no two days are the same. I can be arranging the closure and archiving of studies one day to sorting out the finance on EDGE the next. I am involved in the updating of SOPs, making sure the most up-to-date versions of all documents are in circulation and all previous versions are superseded, provide the department with any data needed to produce monthly/yearly reports, and making sure all new members of staff are proficient in using EDGE for adding participants and their associated finance costs. I raise invoices due for work carried out and ensure that these are paid in a timely manner, along with a whole host of other tasks to support the efficient running of our clinical trials.

03

How does the patient and research landscape currently look at the PAHT?

We deliver Clinical Research for both Commercial and non-commercial studies across two sites, this is directly at The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust and also at St Margaret's Hospital. We have a number of PIs across a variety of specialties such as cancer, respiratory, maternity, ophthalmology, etc. and these are supported by our dedicated team of research-experienced, GCP-trained nurses and clinical trials practitioners. Currently, we are active in 42 studies, 3 of these being Commercial and 39 being non-commercial and have recruited over 1000 participants for the financial year 2023/24.

04

You've been using EDGE for almost 5 months. How do you utilise EDGE in your daily role?

I use EDGE daily in my job role, but the most significant way we have utilised EDGE since I have been in my job role is to put all the finance associated with our trials on EDGE. This has allowed us to keep a tight

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rein on what monies we are due. When we now receive an invoice from a sponsor, we are able to use this facility to cross reference and either agree or dispute the amount due to us. This has been revolutionary at the trust I work in as it is a small team without its own dedicated finance person within the department, so historically the amount suggested by the sponsor has been taken as correct without being able to check this. EDGE has given us the facility to be able to quickly and accurately check this and has already saved us thousands of pounds in missed revenue.

05

As the Clinical Trials Data Manager at your site, what is your favourite EDGE functionality and why?
My favourite functionality on EDGE is the finance being able to add both the Commercial and non-commercial finance to EDGE has been hugely beneficial to the department and made a big difference in how we raise our invoices and collect our income from sponsors.

06

What is one magic EDGE hint or trick that you've discovered to assist in your management of trials?
My biggest tip would be to edit your home screen using the 'Edit Dashboard' function as this saves a lot of time. I have this set up so that studies that I am currently working on are easily accessible, you can also have your reports, workflows, etc. on your home screen.

07

What are your/site's plans for using and developing EDGE over the next 6-12 months?
Personally, I am hoping once I go to the EDGE conference in April, that I will get an insight into what

other similar-sized organisations are using EDGE for. At present, we are not using EDGE to its full potential and would definitely like to explore this further and use more of the functions available to us.

08

What one tip would you offer new users working in trials data management in getting acquainted with EDGE?
Use the support function and the KnowledgeBase as this has so much helpful information and gives you step-by-step guides to all the different elements of EDGE. Another step that really helped was being part of the user group led by Stevie Barre.

09

What is your "bigger picture?" That is, what do you find most fulfilling about your job?
Only being in the role for the past 5 months I have to say that I have personally found getting the finance on EDGE the most fulfilling as this was something that the team had wanted done for some time. It has also made a huge difference to our income and been quite satisfying making sure that we are getting paid correctly for the work carried out. Several posts in the team are funded from commercial activity, therefore this part of my role is crucial.

10

Describe/explain one of your team's recent achievements:
We have recently been the top recruiting site for the AFTER study which was a huge achievement as our PI tragically passed and the team really pushed to carry on his good work and achieve this in his honour. The team have nominated Mr. Kar Teoh posthumously for an NIHR award as Principal Investigator of the year.

11

One clinical research superpower that you wish you possessed:
The ability to make Research an everyday conversation in patient care, so that all patients eligible are offered the opportunity to participate in research which may not only benefit their care, but also that of others.

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One thing that inspires you:
The main inspiration is my family, they always encourage and support me in all my endeavors, including putting up with me when not at my best.

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One thing that always makes you laugh:
My Line Manager creeping up on me and making me jump because I am concentrating so hard on using EDGE! 😵‍💫

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One thing that people might not know about you:
I won a national award for my work setting up the Point of Care Testing for COVID in the pandemic at The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust. The award I won was the NHS Employers award for outstanding achievement by an AHP or healthcare science apprentice, support worker, or technician in the Advancing Healthcare Awards 2021.

Interview by Ken Brackstone, Clinical Informatics Research Unit
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