Research and Development

Edition 20

Cardiff and Vale UHB October 2017 Newsletter

Research and Development Twitter Account

The Research and Development office Twitter account is now up to 408 followers.

Join in and follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/@CAV_Research and get the latest R&D news and learn about new research opportunities that you can be a part of.

Staff updates within the R&D Department

- R&D welcomes Lucy Jenkins who started on the 3rd July 2017 who is our new Contracts/Commercial Manager within the R&D department.

E-learning Modules

HCRW offers new E-learning modules that we can now access and update our knowledge with. The link below provides access to these modules: https://www.healthandcareresearch.gov.wales/e-learning-1/#hra

RGG documents – July 17

SR-RG-004 Research, consent and mental capacity: standard operating procedure

Annual Research Design Conduct Service (RDCS) writing retreat

7 November 2017 - 9 November 2017 | 09:00 - late
Hotel Commodore, Llandrindod Wells | £350.00

This event is an opportunity for NHS or social care professionals across Wales to attend a 3 day residential grant writing retreat. It is aimed at professionals who are ready to apply for funding from the Research for Patient and Public Benefit (RfPPB) or another funder.

The Research Design and Conduct Service (RDCS) Retreat will provide a supportive environment for teams of two or three people (at least one of whom should be a health or social care professional working in Wales) to develop high quality research proposals prior to application to national peer-reviewed funding streams.

For more information about the event and attendance assessment criteria please contact your local RDCS - rdcs@cardiff.ac.uk

Important: Ideas should be fairly well developed as the aim of the retreat is to write the grant application and be in a position to submit it to a funder within the next 1- 4 months. Places are limited and applications will be reviewed before a place is offered. Applications comprise a 1 page summary of your idea, a draft of costings and a flow diagram.

Research for Patient and Public Benefit (RfPPB)

RfPPB and Social Care grant has now launched and closes 20/12/17. However due to an anticipated high number of applications, Cardiff and Vale UHB has set an **internal deadline of 7.30 am on Wednesday 13 December 2017** – a week before the deadline. However it is expected that potential applicants need to work with the R&D office to identify costs much earlier than that. If you are interested in applying please do not hesitate to contact pat.tamplin@wales.nhs.uk

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Caerdydd a'r Fro
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board

Recruitment Data Upload

Information for all portfolio study Chief Investigators and Principle Investigators

The Activity Based Funding data cut off is 5pm on Friday 20th October 2017. Principal Investigators of portfolio studies which have been open any time from 1st October 2016 to 30 September 2017 need to ensure that they upload (or send to the study CI) their recruitment data by this cut off. Failure to upload recruitment data by this date means the UHB will not receive any funding through the ABF formula for this activity. This activity cannot be carried over to the next financial year.

If you are a Chief Investigator and require help with recruitment uploading for studies that you are leading, please **contact Health and Care Research Wales Portfolio Team** – portfolio@wales.nhs.uk

Cardiff & Vale Research Forum

The next Research Forum will be held on Thursday 7th December 2017, time & date TBC.

This will be an opportunity to:

- hear from Research Staff about the exciting work they are doing and the challenges they have faced
- keep up to date with important information
- be involved in forming a collaborative Research Community in Cardiff and Vale contributing towards raising awareness of the importance of research and the impact it has on our patients and services.

For further information please contact Zoe Boult, Senior Nurse, R&D: Zoe.Boult@wales.nhs.uk

Achieving a Joint Research and Development Service

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Cardiff University are co-funding a project to scope and deliver a Joint Research and Development Service. The Service will facilitate collaborative research and development and enable positive research outcomes to translate into improvements in health and clinical services. A scoping document, 'Improving Health and Well-being through Research Excellence', setting out the timeline for the feasibility study and describing what a unified service might aim to deliver was circulated to a range of staff in both organisations over the summer period, providing an opportunity to shape the future direction. The majority of feedback on the document was very positive and encouraging, focusing on the opportunities presented and the delivery of a new service.

Your feedback, in summary:

- "Overall, the establishment of a Joint Service is welcomed": "Fully in support", "excellent initiative", "this will make a real difference to collaborative research and crucially to changing perceptions that then motivate people to get involved in research."
- "There is an opportunity to make Cardiff and Vale, and South East Wales one of the most attractive places to do joint NHS and University research": "A real pulling point for recruiting staff and students in to both CVUHB and CU". "Attracting further investment from funders and commercial partners".
- "The intentions are very ambitious and may be a challenge to deliver": "Aligning NHS and University priorities may miss some areas of research where there is opportunity for growth", "prioritising makes some sense, it needs to be done carefully".
- Integration with National Policy and Strategy: "CVUHB and CU will need to be positioned within the national framework for the NHS", for funding and for policy.
- Defining the Scope is needed to take the next steps: This includes clarity in the context of the Research and the support Services that will be included, to provide clear routes and messages both internally and externally. Signposting to and Integration with other services and initiatives will be determined by this.
- Streamlining processes: "Specifically faster transition from project proposal to data collection". "Clear processes and simple documentation, reducing the paperwork and reporting burden, while at the same time ensuring safe and ethical practice". "It would be hugely motivating and get many more people engaged if we had the ability to take a small study from inception through data collection and on to real patient impact within a year".
- Managing Risk: "Appropriate to risk level of the research". "Small studies with low risk would benefit from light touch procedures". "Not getting involved in research could also be a risk to reputation, finances and ultimately patients".
- Roles and Responsibilities: "Improved access and support working across organisations would lead to better and more efficient research". HR and other support services need to be involved in the design of the service.

Whilst this is an ambitious project there is clear enthusiasm to make this happen. Next steps include defining the project scope, setting out service models and setting more focussed and measurable objectives. For further information or a copy of the scoping document please contact Allison Hanbury, Senior Project Manager. Hanburya2@cardiff.ac.uk

How the introduction of the Role of the Senior Nurse (R&D) has contributed toward Service Improvement and Patient Care

In 2015 the Cardiff & Vale Research Strategy outlined a need to increase research activity in the organisation. The 2016 Nursing & Midwifery Research Framework recognised the need to support nurses and midwives to carry out research in clinical practice. The role of Senior Nurse for Research & Development was introduced in 2016 to support these aims, and to contribute towards building a culture within the organisation that promotes opportunities for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals to undertake safe, ethical and high quality research that will build a sound evidence base needed to underpin clinical practice.

Immediate priorities included team development in the Research Facility to increase capacity for early phase clinical trials, and fact finding across the organisation to establish the role. There were many questions needing answers. Are we offering patients in Wales enough opportunities to take part in safe, ethical, high quality research as part of their pathway of care? What does our performance and reputation look like? Where are our teams, what are they doing and how are they supported? What training is available & how are we measuring competence? Are we supporting our staff to become leaders in research?

Cardiff & Vale is striving to provide an environment where internationally excellent research can occur Staff given the opportunity to engage in research are likely to be more confident, more motivated, more engaged and happier in the workplace which will have a positive impact not only on patient care, but also staff recruitment and retention (Lowes, et al 2016). By developing an internationally recognised reputation for high quality research, the organisation will attract commercial activity which can generate income to support research growth, training, development and improvement in research related services. Collaboration in research facilitates good working relationships, and encourages a research culture in the organisation and the University.

Since 2015, patients from 8 new disease areas have been recruited into early phase clinical trials in the Research Facility. Work in progress includes our first stroke trial; a collaboration with Velindre CTU to run a complex solid tumour trial; a collaboration with the Paediatric team for 2 new clinical trials; the newly established Research Endoscopy Suite will open its doors to clinical trial activity; and support for the Medicine Clinical Board to grow their research activity.

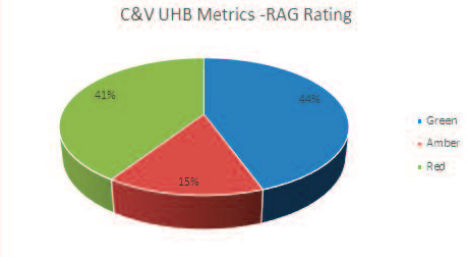
UHB wide achievements over the last 12 months include the CRF open day in January 2017 which gave 105 staff, patients, public and students the chance to delve behind the scenes of the world of research. Intensive work has been done with individual research teams to enable them to increase their capacity, including Haematology, and Critical Care.
By working with teams across the UHB and holding an open Research Forum, the foundations of a network have been established that will help to take forward the ongoing work outlined in both the research strategy, and the nursing and midwifery research framework, improve collaboration across Cardiff and support patients and staff involved in research.

Zoe Boult, Senior Nurse, R&D: – Zoe.Boult@wales.nhs.uk

Performance Metrics for R&D: How are we doing?

Every year C&V UHB has an R&D annual performance meeting with Welsh Government. This year's meeting was held on 6th September. Of the 27 metrics the UHB was measured against for 2016/17, the UHB achieved the following:

- Green: 12
- Amber: 4
- Red: 11



The main areas in which we did not achieve our targets were as follows:

- Recruiting 1st patient into studies within 30 days of site approval
- Recruiting to time and target
- Too many non-recruiting studies (39% of UHB commercial studies did not recruit a patient last year)
- Patients recruited to commercial studies had not increased
- The number of non-commercial portfolio studies had not increased
- Too few non-commercial studies were approved within 40 days.

What research teams can do to help the UHB improve against the R&D targets:

- Be realistic about recruitment targets when completing paperwork.
- If the recruitment target changes and this has been agreed with the Sponsor, inform the R&D Office
- If you no longer intend to recruit patients to a study, inform the R&D Office. The study can then be closed, saving resources on processing future amendments as well as removing the study from future metrics.
- Make sure you contact the R&D office as early as possible to discuss any proposed project.

SUP-ICU STUDY

Stress Ulcer Prophylaxis (SUP) with proton pump inhibitor (Pantoprazole) in adult critically ill patients in the intensive care unit: A randomised, blinded, placebo-controlled trial http://www.sup-icu.com/

The Critical Care Research Department has become the world's best recruiter during Week 34 of the SUP-ICU study, a clinical trial of huge global importance.

The SUP-ICU study is an international multicentre, randomised, blinded, placebo controlled trial with two arms.

Patients are randomly assigned to receive treatment for stress ulcer prophylaxis (SUP) with 40mg Pantoprazole or placebo of 10mls of Saline 0.9%.

Rationale:

Critically ill patients in the ICU are at risk of stressrelated gastrointestinal mucosal damage which can progress to clinically significant gastrointestinal bleeding (GI bleeding).

Stress ulcer prophylaxis (SUP) is recommended to prevent the incidence of GI bleeding in critically ill patients in the ICU. The most commonly used type of SUP used is a proton pump inhibitor (PPI) called Pantoprazole.

The evidence for SUP reducing clinically significant GI bleeding is poor, comprising of studies of a relatively low quality and quantity.

The majority were conducted over 20 years ago and since then treatments and therapies for critically ill patients have improved significantly. Consequently the incidence of stress ulcer formation and clinically significant GI bleeding may very well be less today.

Studies have shown that proton pump inhibitors (PPI) may actually increase the risk of a number of serious adverse advents including pneumonia, clostridium difficile, acute myocardial ischaemia, rhabdomyolosis, hypomagnesaemia and hypocalcaemia. All of these may negatively impact patient morbidity and mortality rates.

Objectives:

- To assess the benefits and harms of stress ulcer prophylaxis with proton pump inhibitors in critically ill adult patients in the intensive care unit.
- The primary outcome measure is 90 day mortality.
- As well as daily monitoring whilst in Critical Care, patients are also followed up at 90 and 180 days post randomisation.

The study aims to recruit 3350 patients in total: 1675 patients in each arm.
Cardiff is the only site in the UK able to get setup in time to begin recruiting and recruitment began at the end of April 2016.

By mid September we had recruited 60 patients, and were the top international recruiter for week 34 of the trial, which is a huge achievement and exceeds our initial target of 50 patients for the duration of the trial.

Our 24/7 recruitment ability has helped to make this possible with 42 of the 60 patients being randomised into the study between the hours of 5pm and 9am, or on weekends or a bank holiday.

We are the only intensive care unit recruiting patients into clinical trials on a 24/7 basis and our recruitment for this study demonstrates just how innovative and effective this unique way of working is.

If you would like any further information on the SUP-ICU study please contact the Critical Care Research Team on 02920 743608 or jade.cole@wales.nhs.uk

Research and Development

Research Delivery Team Leads

Following recent changes to Health & Care Research Wales, Research Delivery staff are now part of the Cardiff & Vale R&D team. Our aim is to support Investigators to carry out quality portfolio studies and meet their recruitment targets. Resources are finite so we work closely with the R&D Director to allocate support appropriately.

Team Leads are working with the R&D Department to review performance against current Key Indicators (KIs). We are currently reviewing studies with zero recruitment for Q1 2017/18 within the Health Board and the reasons for this: findings will be reported to the R&D Director. Each Team Lead is assigned to a Clinical Board and we are contacting any CI or PI who has a study which has not recruited during this period to discuss any issues experienced with recruiting to their study. We want to develop a greater understanding of why studies fail to recruit, so that we can disseminate this information and potentially put in place strategies to support investigators to conduct quality studies and support future patient care.
The team leads are Abby Waters, Delyth Braim, Gail Williams and Mim Evans. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us on the following email:

Abby.waters@wales.nhs.uk
Delyth.braim@wales.nhs.uk
Gail.williams7@wales.nhs.uk
Mim.evans@wales.nhs.uk

Browsers supported by IRAS – Implementation date 18th October 2017

We have information about which browsers will be supported by IRAS from 18 October 2017 and we would like your help to ensure that IRAS users are aware in case they need to take action to update the browser they use. See below for your own information, but also feel free to circulate wider your newsletters and communities.Browsers supported by IRAS

In order to continue to develop the Integrated Research Application System (IRAS) and introduce enhanced functionality, the IRAS team have issued advance notice that from 18 October 2017, IRAS will officially support specific internet browsers and browser versions. Please refer to the IRAS 'Supported Browsers' help page for more information and to find out if this will affect you.

This decision was taken by the IRAS Partners Board following a user poll taken during July 2017 which demonstrated that 95% of the 400 users who responded to the poll used, or had access to, the supported browsers. A small number of IRAS users will need to work with their IT departments to update their internet browsers. For assistance please contact your local IT helpdesk.