

September News

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This month we look forward to the autumn programme of activity with renewed vigour after the summer slow down whilst staff take well earned summer breaks. The PMS Foundation Trust Newsletter is being circulated this autumn, and it has a two page spread on the Network, so we will make sure you get a copy.

Workshops

We are planning to run one research workshop for people with diabetes and people who care for Diabetes for each stream (Type 1 diabetes and Type 2 Diabetes), so if you have attended before, or indicated that you would be interested in attending, then look out for your invitation. If you haven't volunteered yet but would like to know more, then please let us know.

Local study goes National

The EXTRA study that has been going on in Exeter is being rolled out across the whole of England with a new name of DARE (Diabetes Alliance for Research in England). This simple study asking for the donation of a blood sample for research has been recruiting well, and we are grateful to all those who have already participated, and all those who will take part in the future.

Retinal Screening and permission from patients

We are also piloting a scheme in partnership with the retinal screening programme run out of the Exeter office. Every patient invited for their annual retinal screening appointment will find enclosed a release form that allows the Network staff based at the RD&E to access their medical notes for research purposes. This enables us to search for patients who may be suitable to enter specific studies in order to approach them. So if you are a person with diabetes, look out for your form with your next retinal screening appointment letter. Signature of this form does NOT sign you up for any particular study, you will always have any research explained fully before you decide whether to participate. If this is successful we will be adapting the process in order to roll it out across the whole Peninsula in a number of phases.

The Network and GP Practices

A number of GP practices have agreed to become linked practices with the Network. In order to be able to help us with locating patients who may be suitable for particular projects, they first need to seek permission from their patients for the Practice notes to be used for research purposes. So you may be receiving a letter from your GP asking for your permission to help us in this way. Obviously, you have the right to say 'Yes' or 'No' but we hope it will be 'Yes'!

Rosemary Sowden
Peninsula Diabetes Research Network Manager