Research and Surveillance Centre
Supporting collaboration and population health management through data

The RCGP RSC is Europe’s oldest public health surveillance system. It is a funded network of practices, supported by Public Health England and NHS England to deliver disease surveillance, research and more recently monitoring general practice workload.

History of the RSC
The RSC has been at the cutting edge of GP data for over 50 years. Initially responsible for monitoring flu pandemics, it is now a network of over 500 practices supporting Surveillance, Quality Improvement, Research and Education.

Benefits of RCGP RSC membership are:
• Opportunity to participate in research in a light-touch way
• Create new practice revenue streams and ensure your practice is earning maximum QOF and DES income
• Contribute to the national picture by providing data for infectious diseases to Public Health England
• Unlimited access to a dashboard that allows practices to understand their own workload and benchmark them against other practices in the network

“NHS England should continue to support and expand current initiatives to collect workload data, for example by the RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre.”
Nigel Watson, GP Partnership Review

• For PCNs, Federations and CCG, the opportunity to work with our Data Analyst team to help create bespoke “At Scale” dashboards to understand activity across your area

What about GDPR
Due to the sensitive nature of the information we extract, being GDPR compliant is of critical importance.
Our IG structure is NHS Digital compliant and has been externally verified. If you require more in-depth information, get in touch.
FAQs

Q. I represent a PCN or a Federation. Is there something you can offer to us about workload?

Yes. We understand the investment of time, effort and money into General Practice working at scale. We also know there is a distinct lack of data tools to support this. We are proud of what we offer to practices and we are very keen to hear from interested groups.

Q. We are busy with our PCN work. Will it take much time?

No. The process has been designed to be as light-touch as possible for practices to enrol in the RCGP RSC. Our agreements can be completed electronically, and data extraction is an automated process, so no additional administrative efforts are required at practice level.

Q. Will the practices in my PCN or Federation be charged for this?

No. The RCGP RSC covers all fees for data extraction set up, there is no cost to practices in the network.

Q. Is it compulsory to take part in research studies?

No. You can opt in to take part in research. Any opportunities are advertised in our monthly newsletter.

Q. Does a practice get paid?

Yes. Practices receive funding based on research activities. The dashboards also show how much you can earn in specific QOF or DES activity and help you maximise your revenue.

Q. Could this data be used to monitor our performance?

No. GDPR protects use of the data for any other purposes than those explicitly stated in the data sharing agreement. It is not possible to share identifiable data with CCGs, or NHS England.

“Being part of the network is a natural extension of our interest in research; contributing data only available from Primary Care and then seeing the results reflected in the dashboard is very satisfying and informative. The responsive team have also ensured that this is as seamless as possible and it isn’t onerous at all.”

Meena Agrawal, Practice Manager, Warwickshire

For more information please get in contact
E: MedicalDirectorRSC@rcgp.org.uk
www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc