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Leeds Student Medical Practice - GP2GP

Leeds Student Medical Practice currently has over 32,000 students registered and with over 6,000 new students expected to join the practice at the start of the next academic term, GP2GP has been welcomed by the administrative and clinical staff working at the practice in Leeds city centre.

The practice began implementing GP2GP in March 2007; initially four members of the practice were involved in the GP2GP process. Now, 11 of the practice administration team are able to perform GP2GP requests and handle the large number of registrations that the practice handles.

IT & Data Quality Manager Andrew Walsham and Links Coordinator Deborah McDermott found the process of cascading the GP2GP training to other practice staff fairly straightforward. They made the training materials available to all via the surgery's intranet pages.

With so many patients registering each year, the practice has tried to make the process as easy as possible for students.

Andrew explains: "We tailored the registration form (GMS1) to assist us in inputting the data. The customisation is based around the registration screen of the clinical system. It allows us to speed up the data entry process, because the order

of registration fields on screen now matches the order on the GMS1. In addition, we offer students various methods of obtaining our registration pack. They can request it by telephone, email, web form, or of course they can come into the surgery."

In order to best manage the large number of registrations at the practice, the GP2GP process has been divided into its component parts, with each part being handled by the appropriate member of the practice team.

The practice is also seeing some real benefits in time-saving from using GP2GP. "We are really pleased by the reduction in notes summarising and it's a real benefit to see the vaccination history being included by GP2GP," says Andrew.

"It used to take our admin

GP2GP

IT Data Quality Manager, Andrew Walsham

staff a great deal of time to get this information from the paper record when preparing for travel immunisation clinics, but now with GP2GP it arrives already coded. This is particularly helpful for students who are planning to travel to far flung places in their gap year, and is of considerable benefit to the nursing staff involved," he added.

Andrew says that another key aspect of GP2GP is the inclusion of the patient's medication history in the electronic health record transfer. "In most cases the patient notes are available at first consultation.

"This is of immense benefit when a patient presents at the practice with ongoing medical conditions because it provides the clinicians with access to their full health record including past and current medication. We feel this allows us to deliver seamless care to our patients which is what we aim to achieve.

"Before GP2GP we would have to wait several weeks for the paper record, or in serious cases arrange for urgent transfer of the medical records from the previous practice."

In preparing for the influx of records at the start of term, the practice will employ a number of temporary staff to assist with the GP2GP process, processing large numbers of registrations during their 'Registration Week'.

Leeds PCT is supporting the practice with the Smartcard registration for the staff involved. This support has enabled Leeds Student Medical practice to become the highest transferring practice and user of GP2PG in England with hundreds of records being sent and received by the system each week.

Andrew also welcomes the new Clinical Safety Guidance materials available from the NHS CFH website which focuses on the clinical safety issues and procedures that should be considered by all GP2GP users when dealing with electronic patient records.

For more information about GP2GP, please visit:
www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/gp2gp

for Clinical Safety Guidance visit:
www.connectingforhealth.nhs.uk/systemsandservices/gpsupport/gp2gp/goodpractice

NHS Connecting for Health is supporting the NHS to introduce new computer systems and services such as GP2GP. These will help the NHS deliver better, safer care for patients.