

## Royal College of General Practitioners Research and Surveillance Centre – *New member practices wanted*

The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC) is looking for new practice members. [www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc](http://www.rcgp.org.uk/rsc)  
This document sets out why we would like your practice to join one of Europe's oldest general practice sentinel networks.



### Why join RCGP RSC?

- **Altruism** – Be part of the National surveillance system & improve Public Health
- **Rewards** – Practices are funded for the work they do
- **Learning** – Opportunities for feedback and learning
- **Network** – Be part of this valued RCGP community

- **Altruism – Improving Public Health and a new national *Workload Observatory***

One of the most important reasons why practices join RCGP RSC is to improve Public Health. Our Centre has been working in collaboration with Public Health England and its predecessor bodies to improve public health – particularly around influenza, other infections, and vaccine effectiveness for over 50 years.<sup>1</sup> Our Centre key is in spotting the 2009 pandemic, in developing an understanding about excess winter mortality when there was an influenza vaccine mismatch in 2014/15; and to contribute to new plans for influenza vaccination where there has been low vaccine effectiveness.

In the last year, we extended the areas of our work, by producing important contributions in [diabetes](#), [liver disease](#), and [atrial fibrillation](#) – producing high-quality research in these areas. This year, we plan to create a *Workload Observatory* to give a picture of the complexity of cases that we increasingly see in general practice.

- **Rewards – Funding practice time**

Joining the RCGP RSC network and its activities are voluntary – we look to constantly maximise the benefits of joining. We fund the time practices spend participating in any of the network's activities e.g. collecting samples for surveillance, handing out vaccine safety monitoring cards, other quality improvement and research.

We are looking to improve practice benefits in the coming months:

- We will be providing funding for prompt return of practice agreements
- We will make a payment for each consulting clinician who completes online learning about data quality and how to get the most from our dashboard
- We will be extending the feedback on our practice dashboard, which is currently displaying data about vaccine uptake (the part most popular with practice managers) and key diseases we monitor and We also anticipate a wider range of research and quality improvement opportunities
- Member practices interested in research can enhance their *Research Ready* membership to *Research Ready plus*, free of charge

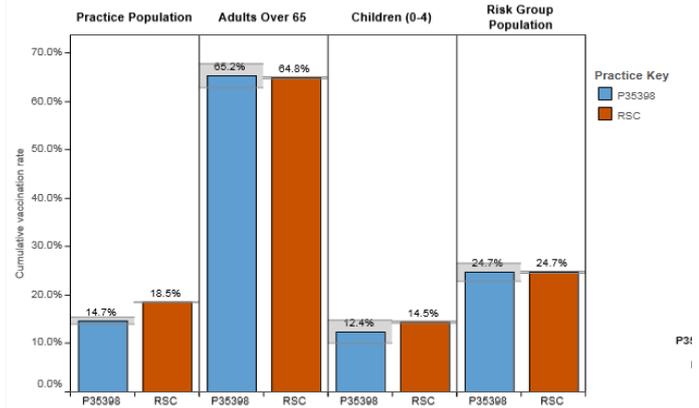
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<sup>1</sup> RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre: 50 years' surveillance of influenza, infections, and respiratory conditions. Br J Gen Pract. 2017;67(663):440-441. <http://bjgp.org/content/67/663/440>

### Feedback about influenza vaccine uptake

This element of our dashboard shows practice vaccine uptake (blue) compared with the rest of the RCGP RSC network (orange). These data are refreshed weekly. The data have a confidence interval.

We have had very positive response from practice managers



- **Learning:**

We are a learning network and value comments, feedback, and welcome visits. We provide online learning about data quality and new learning is due to come out this year about how to use our extended dashboard. We will also be extending our learning into clinical areas starting with diabetes (in collaboration with University of Leicester). We anticipate this being quickly followed by atrial fibrillation and hypertension.

For those interested in learning more about how to process and use routine data we offer two one- week courses per year. You can find out more details about the next available course here: <https://clininf.eu/index.php/education/siss2018/> There are fully sponsored places for the staff of RCGP RSC member practices.

- **Network:**

Member practices, receive our monthly newsletter and are very welcome to be in touch with our Practice Liaison Team if they need support. RCGP RSC is in turn part of the Clinical Innovation and Research Centre (CIRC) and can meet RCGP RSC team members at all major RCGP events.

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### Secure data and analytics hub for RCGP RSC is at University of Surrey

The secure data and analytics hub has been at University of Surrey since 2015, and we welcome visitors from the network. Simon de Lusignan and other members of the team are happy to come and speak to groups of GPs / speak at meetings.



RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre team @ University of Surrey [www.clininf.eu](http://www.clininf.eu)