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DUTY in Cornwall: Julie Cunningham, Community Research Nurse, reports:

"After our appointment as Community Research Nurses, Chris Soper and I were charged with the task of getting DUTY up and running across Cornwall. There had already been quite a bit of interest expressed by a number of GP Practices to take part. Liz & Lisa came from Bristol to train us at the beginning of December with a view to getting things moving in the New Year. Thankfully everything seemed to move quite quickly, with Manor Surgery in Redruth getting R&D approval as an option 1 site at the end of January and our first 2 recruits being entered into the study on the 7th Feb.

"The team at Manor have been fabulous. The duty Doctors & Nurses on both a Monday and Wednesday morning scan their lists to see who could be eligible and then invite them in to see the research team prior to their consultation. This way of working has proved to be very efficient, and due to the size of the practice and its young population we have been successful in recruiting nearly every time we attend.

"As soon as we had got our first recruits under our belt, Chris and I started to visit some of the option 2 sites that wanted to take part. So far Connor Downs and Praze-en-Beeble Practice in Hayle, and Alverton Practice in Penzance, have received the training via Chris and myself and are in the process of gaining R&D approval. Once these sites are ready to go we will hopefully be able to assist the staff in getting their first recruits under their belts before leaving them to it.

"Chris and I are also working on the set up of a further option 1 site at Liskeard and hope to be able to help them with recruitment one morning a week in the near future. We are having expressions of interest from more and more GP surgeries on a weekly basis and the only constraint to recruitment is our time.

"The experience as a whole has been smooth. The support from Bristol has been great as they always get back to you very quickly about any queries, which I think is really reassuring when you are first thinking of getting involved. There have been a couple of hiccoughs with urine specimens, but we have overcome these. The database works well and is easy to use. The presentations provided by Bristol have been really helpful when we have talked to any interested practices, but most importantly the staff at all the GP practices we have visited have been really supportive and positive which is why I think it has worked so well."



Wish you were here!

DUTY Qualitative Study



Isabel de Salis, a qualitative researcher at Bristol University, has interviewed 30 doctors and nurses working in general practices and at the Bristol Children's Emergency Department to try to capture the range of approaches to diagnosing UTI in small children. These doctors and nurses reported that parental awareness of childhood UTIs was generally low, unless there was a history of childhood UTIs in the family, and that parents often did not volunteer information about urinary symptoms unless prompted by participating in DUTY study. Isabel also found that there was a lot of uncertainty among clinicians about the value of dipsticks as a diagnostic tool. Both of these findings underline the importance of the DUTY study and its potential value to UTI diagnosis within primary care. Isabel is hoping to present more detailed findings at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society for Academic Primary Care (Bristol, 6-8 July 2011). For further information about DUTY-Quali, please contact Isabel:

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