

# OXFORD-RCGP RSC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE FROM PROF. SIMON DE LUSIGNAN,  
DIRECTOR OF THE OXFORD-RCGP RSC

## *Your Oxford-RCGP RSC Team: Dr. Vanashree Sexton*

I have recently moved from the Practice Liaison team to being in a Researcher role at the Oxford-RCGP RSC. It has been a pleasure working with RSC network practices across surveillance and research studies over the past two and a half years. I look forward to continue to work on the IID3 study as we move to the research analysis stage, and to develop new collaborative research projects in the team.

My research experience, from my Mixed Methods PhD, includes evaluating different models of care delivery and its impact on patient experience, safety, and the health system. I am also interested in developing research into the impact of the environment on patient health, in particular in patients with long term conditions. I'd love to hear from you if you are interested in collaborating on a specific research area that is important to you and your patient population, please do reach out to us or to me directly ([Vanashree.sexton@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Vanashree.sexton@phc.ox.ac.uk)).



## TakeATestUK Virology Swabbing Pathway

Our **Take-A-Test-UK patient self-swabbing** pathway is a great way to encourage all of your patients to request a swab kit at the earliest signs of flu. The reimbursement to practices for all valid samples received to the laboratory via this pathway is £12.50 per sample

We ask that practices promote this on their websites and social media - <https://takeatestuk.com/>. Do feel free to tag any of our social accounts. **We now have social media assets for practices to use to promote this service. Please ask our Practice Liaison Team.**

Please include your ODS practice code in your promotion of the pathway, as patients are required to enter this as the mandatory 'Voucher code'. Patients will also need to enter their NHS number to request a self-swab kit.

For advice and queries relating to virology sampling, please contact **Dave** and **Ellya** at [practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk)

## 2025-26 Season Commissioning Letter

We have recently updated our annual Commissioning Letter for the 2025-2026 season.

In this year's letter, as well as our usual history of the RSC, guidance on the importance of data coding and our general virology and serology workflows, we have set out additional priorities including the impact of the RSV vaccination programme and influenza vaccine effectiveness analyses.

The letter can be viewed here: [Surveillance Commissioning Letter](#)

## Article of the Week

### Agreement and utility of coded primary and secondary care data for long-term follow-up of clinical trial outcomes

Whilst interest in efficient trial design has grown with the use of electronic health records (EHRs) to collect trial outcomes, practical challenges remain. Commonly raised concerns often revolve around data availability, data quality and issues with data validation. This study aimed to assess the agreement between data collected on clinical trial participants from different sources to provide empirical evidence on the utility of EHRs for follow-up in randomised controlled trials (RCTs).

**Read the full article here**

