

OXFORD-RCGP RSC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



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

Research Ready

Research Ready® is a quality assurance programme for all research-active UK GP practices. It is designed in line with the [UK Research Governance Framework's](#) legal, ethical, professional, and patient safety requirements. The programme serves to provide information, support, guidance and accreditation to practices in research; both to assist with meeting the requirements above, and with considering and conducting research.

Research Ready® gives access to training and support for the whole practice team to upskill them to engage with research. It can be used by all practice staff, both clinical and non-clinical (GPs, nurses, practice management, administrators).

If you would like to know more about Research Ready, please contact The Royal College of General Practitioners, or visit this [link](#).



Sampling opportunities - We still have capacity

RSC Virology & Serology Sampling Pathways 2026-27

Commissioned by UKHSA

| LabReach In-Practice Swabbing AVAILABLE - NEW! | Serology In-Practice Sampling AVAILABLE |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Latest Pathway (from Dec 2025)👤 All age groups eligible📄 Swab MUST be taken within 7 days of onset of symptoms📦 Swab kits supplied directly to practices🌿 Tested for Flu A/B, Covid and RSV💷 £12.50 per valid sample received by the laboratory | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Established Pathway⚠️ Paediatric sampling priority (under 18s) Adult sampling capacity currently full📦 Sample kits supplied directly to practices📄 Practice collects the blood sample📄 Tiered remuneration by age bands: 0-8 years old : £30 9-17 years old : £15 (previously £11) 18 years and above: £5.50 |

Interested in joining or learning more?

Contact the Practice Liaison Team: practiceenquiries@phc.ox.ac.uk to get started

Upcoming webinar series

We have planned a webinar series for our network practices.

The first webinar will take place on **22nd April 2026 at 12pm**, titled:
A Reintroduction to the RSC



If you are interested in attending, please use this [form](#) to express your interest.

News: Research roles eligible for ARRS

Changes to the new 2026/27 GP contract mean that research delivery roles can now be employed through the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme, where agreed with the commissioner, in the Network Contract Directed Enhanced Service.

To support the Primary Care Network workforce, the ARRS scheme will reduce restrictions on employing GPs through the scheme. From April, PCNs will be able to recruit a greater range of roles into the ARRS and for the first time, this greater flexibility will allow for research delivery roles, for example a research nurse or research coordinator, to be employed through the ARRS scheme. Clinical roles which include research as part of the job description can also be funded.

Sampling Is Informing

Welcome to the newest segment of our weekly newsletter

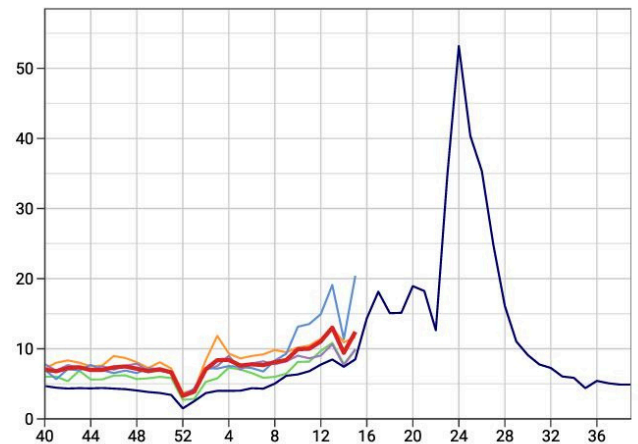
Hayfever/Allergic Rhinitis

With the better weather we are starting to see an increase in hay fever diagnoses in practices.

At this time of year there is a lot of birch pollen and oilseed rape plants have turned the fields yellow and their flowers are also releasing pollen. Many patients may also be visiting pharmacists.

The long term trend suggests that numbers will continue to increase into the summer with a peak when grass pollen is at its highest.

Hayfever / Allergic Rhinitis (ICD10: J30)
Weekly incidence (per 100,000 all ages) by region for 2025/26 compared with 5 year average



LRTI - Acute Bronchitis

We continue to see low rates of acute bronchitis - a condition where most patients are either very young or over 65 years old.

Throughout the winter, and the early part of this year, rates have been significantly below the seasonal average. There can be lots of reasons for these figures including changes in the circulating viruses or differences in coding.

One relatively recent change has been the introduction of the RSV vaccination and, using the data that you have collected, it will be possible to assess the effect of the vaccine on patients' health.

LRTI - Acute Bronchitis
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