



Royal College of
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Research & Surveillance Centre

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RCGP RSC Newsletter: 2nd November 2020

1. *An important year for the network*
2. *Active Research Projects*
3. *A year of surveillance*
4. *Data output*
5. *Social Prescribing Webinar*
6. *Data Migration to Oxford University*

Dear RCGP RSC network member,

1. Investment to create ORCHID

2020 has been a huge year for the network. In a single year our network has more than tripled in size and we welcome each and every one of you contributing to our data. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced us to increase our surveillance and collaborate with more research teams to ensure that we are contributing as much as possible to the national understanding and tackling of the pandemic.

We have also launched the Oxford-Royal College of GPs Clinical Informatics Digital Hub (ORCHID). This University of Oxford-RCGP development will help secure the further development of the network.

We hope the next year will bring as many opportunities and collaboration within the network and we can't thank you enough for all you and your teams have contributed at such a difficult time.

2. Active Research Projects

Thanks if you are involved already – but if not here are three really important studies we have running in the network. **RECAP** requires careful recording of symptoms soon after onset of COVID, so we can work out prospectively what symptoms predict worse outcomes. **PRINCIPLE** is an opportunity to randomise the subjects you have carefully coded in RECAP into receiving treatment (or not). **RAPTOR** is a study of near patient testing, including for COVID-19. It is possible for practices to do all three!

RECAP: The RECAP (Remote COVID-19 Assessment in Primary Care) project has the aim of developing a tool to assist primary care providers in the identification of those COVID-19 patients at risk of becoming severe, in order to facilitate the rapid escalation of their treatment and increase the chances of better outcomes. [Click here for further information.](#)

PRINCIPLE: The PRINCIPLE trial platform is a national priority trial to find treatments for COVID-19. The trial is designed to test a range of treatments in the community, with treatment arms that can be stopped, replaced or added. It is currently evaluating usual care alone versus usual care plus azithromycin; or usual care plus doxycycline. [Click here for further information.](#)

RAPTOR: RAPTOR-C19 is a research study to assess the accuracy of different rapid tests for COVID-

19 for patients in the community. The aim is to identify whether rapid tests, which give results within minutes/hours, are as accurate as standard laboratory tests. [Click here for further information.](#)

3. Two ways to supply surveillance swabs – Online via TakeaTest or using in-practice kits:

Until we are through the COVID-19 crisis there is no specific 'season' for our surveillance and we will continue all year-round.

As part of this new approach our virological surveillance practices will receive both in house swabbing kits as well as TakeaTest voucher codes which will be issued to practices on a weekly basis. These codes will allow patients to order an at home testing kit. We hope this will minimise unnecessary contact with suspected COVID19 cases to keep our practice staff and communities safe. Please find further information [here](#). Materials can be ordered through the form on our website, alternatively click [here](#). There is still time to sign up to take part in our surveillance, limited spaces are available and you can register your interest [here](#).

4. Research using RCGP RSC data – new featured publications:

Thanks to the excellent data your practices have provided to the network we have been able to achieve a new and exciting data output this month. Our publication in the British Journal of General Practice (BJGP) entitled "Excess mortality in the first COVID pandemic peak: cross-sectional analyses of the impact of age, sex, ethnicity, household size, and long-term conditions in people of known SARS-Cov-2 status in England" the full paper can be viewed [here](#).

5. RCGP Social Prescribing Webinar

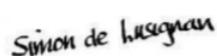
Thanks very much to those that attended the webinar 'Making sense of social prescribing, exploring insights and trends with the RSC observatory'. A [write up of the findings](#) and a [recording](#) are available on our website. The RCGP organised another webinar on [15 October 2020](#), to discuss our ongoing activities in Social Prescribing and to highlight what is being done in this area. Both of the webinars were undertaken as part of a larger project, funded through NHS England, which has so far included the development of a [Social Prescribing observatory](#) and [Dashboard](#). Future activities with the social prescribing project includes further development of the observatory and dashboard, to include STP level information and heatmaps to enable more localised information.

6. New secure network at University of Oxford for ORCHID / RCGP RSC

As many of you know around a year ago the RCGP RSC started a collaboration with The University of Oxford and moved our offices to Oxfordshire. This new collaboration will initially be known as the Oxford Royal College of General Practitioners Clinical Informatics Digital Hub (ORCHID). Please be aware that our data is now being moved from the University of Surrey secure system to a University of Oxford secure system. This will not have any impact or create any changes regarding the data we hold from your practice.

Thank you again for all your hard work during this challenging time.

Yours Faithfully,



Simon de Lusignan

On behalf of the Oxford RCGP RSC Team

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Director,

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