

CMR UPDATE

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CMR Conference 1999

The 1999 CMR Conference, held in Stirling last December, was attended by over one hundred delegates and once again was voted a resounding success. Presentations, workshops and open discussion covered a variety of topics including the Nurse Data Collection project; the use of CMR data in economic assessment; the CMR Quality Assurance programme and new developments in GPASS. A full report of the Conference is being sent out to all practices and will be posted onto the

New edition of the CMR Handbook

website. It is almost two years since the publication of the first edition of the CMR Handbook, the definitive guide of 'how to do' CMR. Although 'new GPASS' versions of some sections were produced for practices which were upgrading, there have not

been any substantive changes since then.

However, recent developments for CMR have necessitated writing a new edition. These include the extension of the CMR dataset to include 'by clinician' and 'by type of encounter' fields; inclusion of Operation codes and guidelines and standards for data quality. The sections of the Handbook will be sent out as a series of instalments, building up into a complete set. The first

Standards for CMR data

will be Section 11 on Quality which practices will be receiving shortly. Following the development of guidelines (the Handbook); training and data audit, the next step in the Quality Assurance programme has been to define standards for CMR data. These were first announced at the 1999 CMR Conference and are set out in Section 11 of the Handbook

which practices will receive shortly (see above).

Two levels of standard have been set. Firstly, a minimum standard, below which data is not acceptable for inclusion in the national sample, and secondly a target level to aim for. Standards have been set for Data Completeness and Accuracy of Read codes and are as follows:

Accuracy:

Minimum 90%

First LHCC for CMR

Target 95%

Completeness:

Minimum 92.5%

Target 97.5%

By April 2000, the first LHCC in Scotland to have all its practices carrying out CMR will have gone live. This has been made possible with the support of the Ayrshire and Arran Primary Care Trust. As well as CMR, the practices will be carrying out nurse data

An account of the presentations to the CMR conference on this can be found in the forthcoming conference report.

Extraction from New GPASS

Several practices have reported some initial difficulties in carrying out the extraction process from new GPASS. These problems tend to resolve once practices gain experience and become more familiar with the procedure. Full instructions for this are in Section 8 of the Handbook and further assistance is always available by telephone through the Helpline. However, if you have any suggestions or ideas e.g. how could the guidelines be made any clearer, we would like to hear from you.

New Member joins CMR Team

Jamie Gray joined the CMR Team on the 10th January this year. Jamie has worked for the NHS for 9 years and before joining ISD worked as a coder within the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.

For the past three years, Jamie has worked within N I S D U (New Information Systems Development Unit) alongside the CMR team,

associated projects and is eager to play a part in the development of CMR.

Jamie's role will incorporate most of the duties formerly carried out by Gerry Mulvenna and will range from: maintaining the CMR Helpline, through to participating in Quality Assurance visits.

collection using the model developed during the recent experiment

Data Operator Training Days