

12 Oct 2011

Dear colleagues

### Contribute data to QResearch<sup>®</sup> and help make a difference

Using anonymised data from EMIS systems just like yours, QResearch and QSurveillance are two home-grown projects that are helping change and improve the long-term healthcare of people living in the UK.

Whilst more than 3,000 EMIS practices contribute to QSurveillance, anonymised data from only 670 practices for QResearch is being extracted and analysed, which is why we need your help.

We want to make an even bigger difference to UK healthcare, by increasing the volume of the data we extract. So we are asking every EMIS LV practice to start contributing. Data is anonymised before being collected, so no confidentiality is breached.

### Making a difference

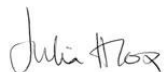
Take a look at just some of the ways these data are making a difference:

- the founding of a whole new set of risk calculators to more accurately predict the risk of common illnesses and conditions, including QRisk<sup>®</sup> for cardiovascular disease and QDScore for Diabetes
- a NSAID safety study led to changes in national and European policy on NSAID prescribing
- the identification of new risk groups for flu vaccines, which resulted in better search utilities added to all GP clinical systems by the Department of Health
- the monitoring, tracking and reporting of epidemics, such as the prevalence of the swine flu outbreak in 2009 for the Health Protection Agency.

For more information on these projects, please see the accompanying 'get switched on' leaflet.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. If you would like to contribute to QResearch, simply email [julia.hippisley-cox@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:julia.hippisley-cox@nottingham.ac.uk) with your EMIS CDB number.

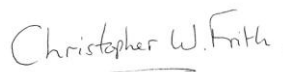
Yours sincerely



**Professor Julia Hippisley Cox**  
Director  
QResearch & QSurveillance



**Sean Riddell**  
CEO  
EMIS Group



**Dr Chris Frith**  
Chairman  
EMIS National User Group

## Why do we want to increase the size of QResearch?

We want to increase the size of QResearch in order to:

- increase the number of practices with longitudinal data, tracking back over a decade to enable us to develop new risk prediction algorithms such as QRisk, QDScore and QFracture. This data can then be integrated back into the clinical system
- enhance our ability to undertake research on rare diseases
- enable the rapid evaluation of the safety and effectiveness of newly introduced medication.

## Has my practice been invited to participate?

We are inviting all EMIS LV practices to join QResearch. Some practices joined in 2003, and some in 2007, but this is now an opportunity for everyone to contribute. We would like every practice to check whether their practice is contributing, and if not, please get started.

## How do I activate QResearch?

Email [julia.hippisley-cox@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:julia.hippisley-cox@nottingham.ac.uk) quoting your EMIS CDB number. EMIS will then undertake the activation so that there is no work involved for the practice. Simply pin up the enclosed patient notice to inform patients that you are a QResearch practice.

## What will happen if the practice takes part in QResearch?

The practice system generates an upload of the anonymised coded patient level data, and transmits it to a dedicated server within EMIS. The data is updated on a daily basis, and this update does not interfere with the running of the practice or any scheduled back-ups. The process is well established and has been running for more than eight years.

EMIS undertakes a secure transmission of the aggregated data to the University of Nottingham. To ensure maximum security, the data is encrypted, and stored, on a stand-alone server in the University of Nottingham; and this is the *only* point of access to the data.

## Will the identity of practices taking part in QResearch be kept confidential?

Yes, the participation of the practice in QResearch is entirely confidential. The Advisory Board, let alone any users of the QResearch data, will not know the identity of the practice. The practice will *never* be named in any report or publication.

## What are the benefits of taking part?

Practices will be contributing to the improvement of patient care, through a good quality ethical research programme, carried out on large volumes of data.

## Will any patient identifiable data be extracted from practices?

No. Patient identifiable data will never be extracted from practices by QResearch.

## Are there any risks to taking part?

We do not believe there are any significant risks to taking part in QResearch. The main issue is security and confidentiality of the data collected, and we have put systems in place to ensure maximum security of data. There have been *no* breaches in security *or* complaints in the last seven years.

## What is the role of the QResearch advisory board?

The QResearch advisory board meets every 9-12 months in order to oversee the general working of QResearch, including the handling of the data, the type of analyses undertaken and access to the database, and to agree and update the criteria and principles for access to the QResearch database and oversee their application.

## Who is organising the research and who are the guarantors?

QResearch is a joint venture between the University of Nottingham and EMIS. The project is organised and guaranteed by Professor Julia Hippisley-Cox (GP and Professor of General Practice, University of Nottingham) and Mr Sean Riddell (Chief Executive, EMIS Group).

## Further information

Further details about QResearch, including the protocol, information for researchers, research publications, membership, and minutes of the advisory board meetings and related resources (PowerPoint presentations etc) can be found on the QResearch website [www.qresearch.org](http://www.qresearch.org)