

# REACH-HF News



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## Welcome!

We are delighted to welcome some new staff to REACH-HF at this exciting time for the project.

Dr. Anna Sansom from the University of Exeter will be working with Colin Greaves as a researcher on the feasibility study.

Welcome to the REACH-HF facilitators from Cornwall (Sarah Killackey & Susan Dean), Birmingham (Jane Stubbley & Jackie Burke), York (Nicky Cockerill) and Abergavenny (Debbie Head & Kerry Andrews).

Last but by no means least... welcome to the research nurses from the four study sites, who attended the outcome assessor training day in Birmingham on 20th February.



## Work Package 1a Update

The intervention development team are delighted to announce that the text for the Heart Failure Manual and Caregiver Resource is complete and is with the printer! The team would like to thank all the experts, service users (especially our dedicated PPI group) and collaborators who helped us to put the HF manual together – it has been a mammoth undertaking, but we are nearly there!

The training course for manual facilitators is developing well with strong input from the Heart Manual Office team and Patrick Doherty at the University of York. Many thanks to Kate Jolly and her PA Anne Walker for organizing the course venue in Birmingham.

## Feasibility Study Progress

All is progressing to plan for the feasibility study. We hope to begin recruiting patients (and their caregivers where they have one) in March ready to begin delivering the intervention in early April. We hope to recruit up to six patients per site (Truro, Abergavenny, Birmingham and York) giving a total of 24 patients to try out the intervention programme over the next six months. We will get feedback from patients, caregivers and facilitators about their experiences of using it. This will inform revisions to the manual and the training course and we will be ready to put "Version 2" into the main trial which will begin in November 2014.

## Patient and Public Involvement Update

The first PPI meeting of 2014 took place in Truro on 8th January. Although some of the members were unable to attend, there was lively discussion as usual! The group reviewed drafts of the HF Manual and Caregiver Resource and initial thoughts were positive. The group made some helpful contributions to the proposed intervention facilitator training course and delivery of the manuals, which have been fed back to the training programme developers. Kevin Paul, Chair of the PPI group, will be present at this course to act as a 'patient voice'.

## Update on Ethics & other approvals

Full ethical approval for the feasibility study has now been obtained from Berkshire Research Ethics Committee.

We are now awaiting local R&D approval from the various study sites before recruitment can begin.

Thank you to Chris and Vicky from PenCTU for making the process run smoothly!



If you have any news items that you would like to include in the summer 2014 issue of REACH-HF News, please send to Sarah at the above address. Thank you!

### Dates for Your Diary:

- REACH-HF Intervention Facilitator Training course **18th to 20th March** in the **University of Birmingham**
- Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) meeting **23rd April** 6.30pm in Truro
- Programme Management Group (PMG) meeting (with Trial Oversight Group and IP Meetings) on **20th June** at 12.30 pm – venue TBC
- Society for Academic Primary Care conference 2014 **9th to 11th July**, at the **University of Edinburgh**

<http://www.rcht.nhs.uk/RoyalCornwallHospitalsTrust/WorkingWithUs/TeachingAndResearch/ReachHF>

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