

RIXG IT Advocates Survey

Renal IT Systems

Regions surveyed (May 2008):

East of England	South Central
East Midlands	South East
North East	West Midlands
North West	Yorkshire & Humber

No. of Units covered: 39

Main Themes:

Contact with the LSPs (Local Service Providers) – only about half of the IT advocates had had any contact with their LSP regarding the requirements of a specialist renal IT system and only one had been involved with respect to the need for an efficient primary care – secondary care information transfer mechanism in the management of kidney disease.

Renal Information Systems – there were a variety of renal information systems in use (mainly Proton based, eMed Mediqal, Euclid / Finesse and RenalPlus with a few local bespoke systems).

Local Trust engagement with the LSPs – less than 20% of units were in Trusts acting as early adopters of LSP delivered software although just over 40% had seen the deployment of some LSP software in their Trust (principally PAS and / or PACS systems).

Local Trust system development and support of renal IT systems – just over one-third of units were in Trusts developing their own electronic information systems (e.g. electronic patient records). Whilst most units (approximately 60%) felt that their Trust IT departments were supportive, this was frequently more ‘moral’ in nature (20%) rather than an active dialogue between the unit and the Trust.

Comments:

Two specific themes came through in the comments collected:

- Systems should provide better communication tools between primary and secondary care.
- There should be a realistic and meaningful opportunity for clinicians (medics and nurses) to be involved in the design of systems from a workflow perspective.

Outcome to date (May 2009):

Donal O’ Donaghue (National Clinical Director for Kidney Services) has now written to the Network Chairs in each SHA / SCG proposing that Renal IT Advocates should be offered a defined role in each network as part of the core team.

Dr Afzal Chaudhry
East of England Advocate
May 2009