

Supporting Research Governance in a Healthcare Setting

Edmonds, L

Edmonds, Lyn: Papworth Hospital NHS Trust, Clinical Library Service, Papworth Everard, Cambridge CB3 8R, UK, lyn.edmonds@papworth-tr.anglox.nhs.uk

Papworth Hospital NHS Trust is a specialised cardiothoracic hospital near Cambridge, England. Following publication of the government's *Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care*, each research active NHS organisation has to prepare a local implementation plan to comply with this by 2004. It is intended to sustain and develop a research culture that promotes excellence, with research leadership and management to help researchers, clinicians and managers to apply standards correctly. The Clinical Library at Papworth Hospital provides a comprehensive range of services supporting clinical practice, education and research and is working to ensure that it contributes appropriately to research governance.

The hospital's reputation for excellence in primary and secondary research and 'getting research into practice' has provided opportunities for the Clinical Library. The Clinical Library is part of the Research and Development (R&D) Directorate and the Library Manager is a member of the R&D senior management team. The R&D Directorate provides a specialised course for any healthcare professional wishing to learn the skills necessary to undertake research. This course covers literature searching, study design, ethics, statistics and other aspects of research project management. It is followed by several workshops. This programme has helped to establish the Library Service as an intrinsic part of the research process and to enhance the skills of staff undertaking research.

The Library provides a proactive service by alerting staff to relevant items in the current literature. Research information is disseminated via the Clinical Library Intranet site and a newsletter, which is distributed to all staff.

Papworth Hospital's research programme has provided the Clinical Library with an opportunity to support research excellence in addition to the provision of a modern healthcare information service. It is hoped to continue to seek new ways of supporting the research governance agenda.