



To:
Lead Consultants in all Emergency Departments
PCT Chief Executives
Leads for Primary Care Provider Organisations

17th August 2009

Gateway Ref: 12420

Dear Colleague,

**Using primary care in Emergency Departments to improve patient outcomes:
Request for support with completing questionnaires**

The Primary Care Foundation is carrying out a study on our behalf of the use of primary care clinicians within or alongside Emergency Departments (A&E). The aim is to understand the range of different models and report on the various elements that need to be in place for such initiatives to operate safely and successfully. To achieve this they are asking all Emergency Departments, commissioners and the primary care provider organisations in England to complete a questionnaire. They also currently are visiting a number of Departments.

The Review Of Central Returns (ROCR) has approved this data collection under the following reference: ROCR/09/0022. This is for a one-off voluntary collection from PCTs and acute trusts (including Foundation Trusts). The Licence Expiry Date for this Collection is: 5th August 2010.

This work is important. We would all support those approaches that are developed to provide improved care for patients, that operate within a clear operational and clinical governance framework and that make best use of the skills and capabilities of the different practitioners. It is important to identify the key factors that lead to such models – and to learn from examples that have had less success and, in some cases, undesirable outcomes.

We urge you to assist the Primary Care Foundation by ensuring that your organisation submits a return, including any comments or additional information by no later than 14th September 2009. You will, of course, receive a copy of the results of this work later in the year. The web links to the survey for each type of organisation are at:

<http://www.primarycarefoundation.co.uk/page22/page30/page30.html>

Thank you in advance for your support

Yours sincerely

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