

**Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> occasional [Refer-to-Pharmacy](#) newsletter sent to anyone who has shown interest in R2P's development... please pass it on.**

Before I get on to the R2P news I must digress, as there is an important vote looming...

**To paraphrase a line from a song with regards to hospital pharmacy, '[nobody knows when they're near](#)' - as often the work of a pharmacist or technician is *not* overt. Refer-to-Pharmacy offers an opportunity to change this perception.**

On the back of the Refer-to-Pharmacy innovation I have been shortlisted for the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's annual '*I Love My Pharmacist*' award; now in its third year. I really want to shine a light on what pharmacy teams do, and how they can work effectively across the hospital/primary care interface; and how Refer-to-Pharmacy makes this so easy. Sooo... I need you vote. [Click here](#) to find out more – the voting button is at the bottom of the page (or Google "*I Love My Pharmacist Alistair Gray*" if the link doesn't work).

**Here are the latest referral numbers for 2016 (1st January to 20th June). 1936 referrals were made consisting of:**

·	<b>MDS (blister pack)</b>	<b>793</b>
·	<b>Medicines use Review</b>	<b>476</b>
·	<b>New Medicine Service</b>	<b>277</b>
·	<b>Information only</b>	<b>240</b>
·	<b>Care Home</b>	<b>150</b>

During May, and to further raise awareness and demand, R2P has had live demonstrations made at the Chief Pharmacists' of the North AGM up in Kendal, and at various professional network meetings in the North West.

**As I write there are numerous upgrades to R2P in final testing imminently ready to be deployed; some went live today. These will be most noticeable in the community pharmacy side of the system – we're making it easier to manage referrals received and capture outcomes.**

My Trust's information manager is also investigating creating a live link between Trust readmissions data and R2P referrals so we can say with 100% certainty whether a referred patient was readmitted or not; and whether this was related to their previous episode. I'll let you know more next time.

**R2P didn't win an HSJ Value in healthcare award, however R2P is nominated for a [Patient Safety Award](#) at the upcoming [Patient Safety Congress](#) for Best Emerging Technology. I'm speaking at this event too on the 5<sup>th</sup> July; if anyone is attending come along to hear the latest news and see a demonstration.**

And in other news... there was quite a bit of interest from the last newsletter about the *Dedicated Ward Pharmacy* project (i.e. a pharmacist on every ward, participating in consultant-led ward rounds, and with no commitment to other wards). We held a selection centre a fortnight ago and have recruited 8 pharmacists and 6 technicians to roll this service out to 16 wards. People won't be in post until August and with induction it will be September when the roll out starts.

**Until next time... and remember to vote!!**

Many thanks,



**Alistair Gray**

**Clinical Services Lead Pharmacist**

**MRPharmS, BSc(Hons), DipClinPharm**

East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

Pharmacy Department

Royal Blackburn Hospital

Haslingden Road

Blackburn BB2 3HH

Telephone: Internal 82252/3 External 01254 732252/3

Fax: 01254 736850

e-mail: [alistair.gray@elht.nhs.uk](mailto:alistair.gray@elht.nhs.uk)