

Dear Colleagues,

We have been given an exciting opportunity to join in with a 6-month pilot study run jointly by NHSE and the Academic Health Science Network. The pilot supports the reduction of long-term cardiovascular damage by testing for familial hypercholesterolemia in 1-year olds and is due to start in the first quarter of next year – starting date will be subject to change depending on the pandemic (it may be pushed back but not brought forward).

This pilot is exciting as it aims to prevent cardiovascular damage from occurring rather than just treating it when it occurs.

The need to increase testing for familial hypercholesterolemia is a national must do – outlined in the NHS long term plan.

The proposal is to ask the immunisation nurses to perform a heel prick test (like the Guthrie test at birth) to those babies that are undertaking their 1-year old vaccinations. The cards containing the blood spots will be sent to the genetics lab at Cambridge. Those babies found to have the familial hypercholesterolemia gene will be followed up by both the genetics and paediatrician team from Cambridge. The genetics team will also follow up family members to ensure their health.

Some of the details around running the project – including the remuneration fee for taking part are still being finalised but we have been asked to give an indication of numbers of practices that would be willing to participate. I have been reassured that if for any reason practices that have committed themselves to this pilot need to pull out, they will not be penalised in any way.

Ideally, we would like to run this pilot across the whole ICS but realise that in today's health climate that this is a big undertaking, so we are asking for responses from individual practices or PCNs.

Now for the hard bit – I need to have responses back on the numbers that are interested in participating in the pilot as soon as possible with a deadline of **COP on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> of November**

To register an interest in participating in this pilot please send:

Surgery name

PCN Name

Immunisation lead(s) name(s) and contact details

Practice manager name and contact details

To Lorraine Boggis at: [lorraine.boggis@suffolk.nhs.uk](mailto:lorraine.boggis@suffolk.nhs.uk)

Look forward to hearing from you soon