

# PREVENTT

Preoperative intravenous iron to treat anaemia in major surgery

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## PREVENTT News

Welcome to the August edition of the PREVENTT newsletter. During July, set up has been progressing well at our new PREVENTT sites. A site initiation was held with the team based at Oldham Royal Infirmary on 20th July. Thank you to Mr Zahid Hussain and the team for your time during the visit and we look forward to your first recruits soon! Further site initiations have also been arranged with St Mary's (Imperial) and Queen Elizabeth in Gateshead during August.

Thank you to all sites for sending in your screening logs during May and June. This is very useful data for the project management team and these are being reviewed carefully over the summer. More detailed feedback will be provided on a site by site basis over the next few weeks and there will be a full report in the next newsletter. The next full screening data will be collected in November 2015.

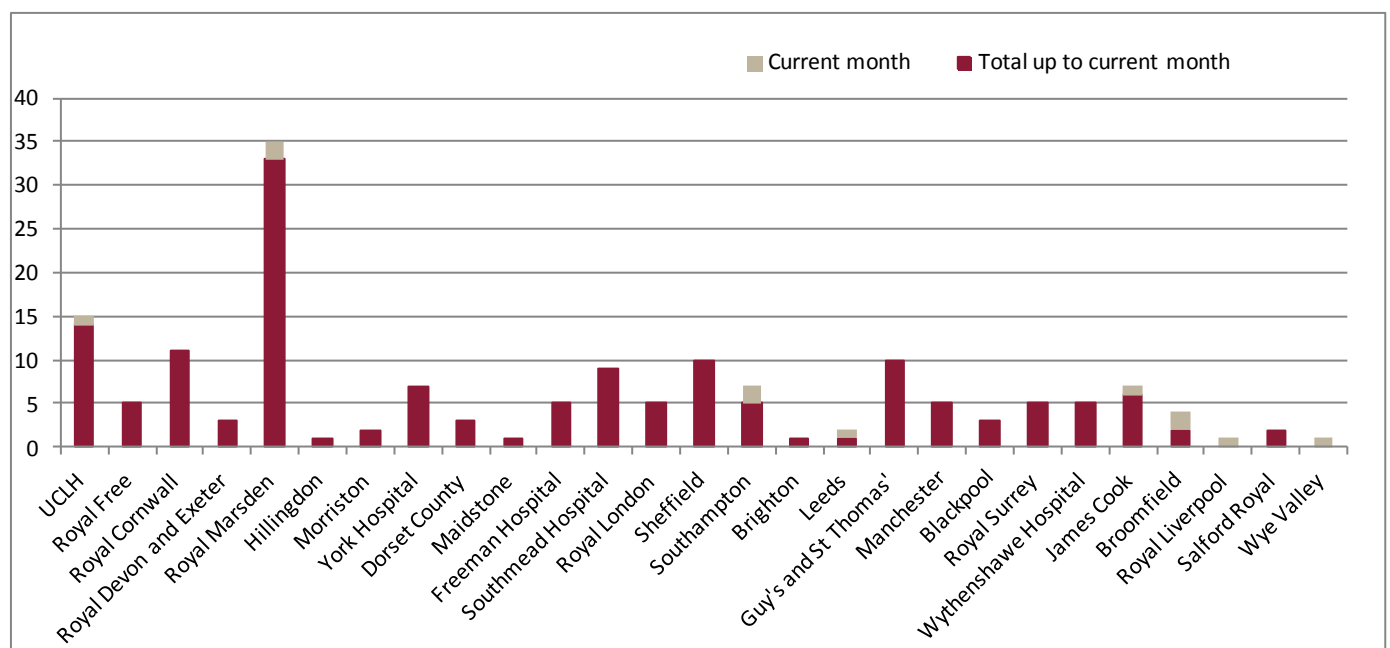
Over the summer, a number of PREVENTT resources (eg. the posters for clinic areas) are being revamped for the start of our third year of recruitment. If you have any suggestions for other resources which may aid recruitment at your site, please let the trial team know.

The PREVENTT team would like to wish you an enjoyable summer break! We hope that the sun shines on you where ever you are! The PREVENTT CTU will be open every day over the summer period.



## PREVENTT Recruitment – 165 Patients Randomised!

Congratulations to all sites who recruited into the trial during July. Two sites, Royal Liverpool and Wye Valley randomised their first patients this month which brings the total number of sites who have recruited at least one patient to 27. Overall, eight sites recruited at least one patient during July which is fantastic and 11 patients were recruited in total. However we do need recruitment to improve and for at least half of the PREVENTT sites to recruit a patient every month.



## A Note from the Chief Investigator– Toby Richards

As we run into the summer, most of you have been participating and helping with PREVENTT for over a year. We are doing well overall, PREVENTT has gone through several minor and a couple of major changes but essential the core principle remains exactly the same. The problem is that many people undergoing major surgery are anaemic. We know that in this group of people the outcomes following their operation are worse, they spend longer in the hospital, have a high rate of complications and a high mortality rate. Since we initially proposed this, further data in several series totalling over a million patients confirm this and it is a real problem in our surgical population.

PREVENTT is more relevant than ever at the moment because the NICE guidelines on transfusion are coming out. If we push ahead in the NHS to use intravenous iron in surgical patients (because it appears to be a really good idea), it is going to cost the NHS about £14 to £15 million across the country. If IV iron does reduce transfusion and reduce post-operative complications then we will save the NHS £35-40 million. BUT what if it actually makes no real difference or perhaps increases infection or cancer recurrence? The right thing to do is to formally test this intervention in this setting. We are doing the right thing running PREVENTT.

The work for PREVENT has proved to be harder than we anticipated. Trial nurses have screened at length and you just have to look at the result of our screening to see the immense amount of work teams are doing around the country. All PREVENTT sites are doing their best to support the trial and with new centres coming on board, comes new enthusiasm and recruitment is picking up again. As we approach the summer months, it is a bit like the time before Christmas; we know that many surgeons and colleagues are going on a holiday often for a two week period. Therefore, if we can get patients identified before the surgeon goes away, there would be a two week leading period to recruit them. It would be great if every site could enrol one patient before the end of the summer holiday. We are in a good place and this is due to everyone's hard work and commitment. PREVENTT is more topical and needed more than ever before. This work is vital to the NHS and to patient's welfare and we are extremely grateful for the support that everybody is giving. Surgical trials can be challenging but we are making progress. Thank you for all your hard work and commitment to this work and ultimately patient welfare.

### Lucky Number

Unfortunately, no site won the box of chocolates for July. However, there will be a box of chocolates for the site who recruit patient **177** during August! So keep screening patients to be in with a chance!

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