

How can we maximise our chances of recruiting?

We are hugely encouraged by your increased efforts to complete recruitment. There are now just 48 participants remaining (which works out just 2 patients per site!). We have highlighted some top tips on building local awareness and increasing your chances of recruiting those final few patients.

If patients feel hesitant because they may get the placebo, remember there is no evidence that giving IV iron will reduce the risk of transfusion, or improve post-operative risks associated. *In fact, with more IV iron being given pre-operatively we are hearing of anecdotal cases where patients are given IV iron pre-operatively, but still end up having transfusions post-op!* This is why we need PREVENTT!

Put up the posters in staff rooms and clinical areas and include information about the trial in **departmental newsletters**

Present the trial at **research and handover meetings** to ensure all staff are aware of the trial

Screen in all possible locations, such as theatre lists, pre-op assessments and MDT meetings

Get surgeons on board. Patients preparing for surgery can find it a difficult time. Therefore having assurance that their surgeons approve of their recruitment into PREVENTT helps

Call on Toby and the PREVENTT team. We (Sandy, Kim, Ruth, and Laura) are always happy to make calls to help with recruitment, this could range from speaking to clinical leads, or presenting at MDTs

If recruitment starts to drop, a **quick mention at the MDTs**, or popping over to relevant **clinics and pre-assessment** to remind about referring patients for PREVENTT helps. This includes the pre-op anaemia clinics, as most haematologists and anaesthetists that run these services tend to want to recruit to PREVENTT, given the lack of resources and evidence!

7 patients this month

Salford Royal

2 patients - well done to Katherine, Vicky and the team

UCLH

2 patients - well done to Debbie, Jung and the team

Broomfield

1 patient - well done to Fiona, Lauren and the team

Cheltenham & Gloucester

1 patient - well done to Henry, Susan and the team

Royal Marsden

1 patient - well done to Ethel and the team

Welcome back to Hillingdon who have started screening patients again this month under the new PI, James Harris.

Q&A with Team UCLH



How do you keep PREVENTT in the minds of your colleagues?

PREVENTT is continuously at the forefront of the teams minds as it is included on our daily work schedule for screening and follow up. We find the recruitment pattern for the study tends to come in batches of 2-3 patients at once (like a London bus). The study is incorporated into our daily huddle where we hand over all potential patients and follow ups so no one gets missed. Recently we had a consultant phone us up to see a patient because she had informed him at her OPD that she was interested in taking part in the study after receiving the patient leaflet, We saw her straight away and she was recruited 4 days later.

It is a real team effort and we always acknowledge the effort of everyone involved when we recruit a patient.

How do the research team undertake screening for PREVENTT at UCLH?

Patients are identified through screening theatre diaries on a daily basis for the specialties of colorectal/upper GI and Gynae. Most of our patients are identified this way. We include all patients with confirmed and provisional operation dates. We find Gynae patients are the most challenging group as it is very hard to identify if the patient is aware of the surgical plan or when the operation will take place or whether the patient is having chemo first. We therefore ensure that we have the agreement from the consultant first before we approach. We do lose some patients to recruitment in this specialty due to timeline between intervention and study. We also have a direct link via email with all referrals going through pre-assessment for the Anaemia clinic but it is often the case that by this stage we have already identified them. Occasionally we have referrals from surgical teams via our PI Dr Khaled Dhawas.

What are your top tips for approaching a patient about PREVENTT?

Initial introduction to the study is via post or at an outpatients appointment, This way we can introduce the study to potential patients with no documented HB or one outside the eligibility timeline. A full PIS and invite letter is only sent to patients who are confirmed eligible via source documentation.

How do you remind patients about completing and returning their patient diaries?

Diary one is the easiest diary to collect and we remind them at intervention visit, and write due date for completion on QoL questionnaires. For diary 2&3, we contact patients by telephone a couple of weeks prior to due date and try where possible to arrange collection at time of their follow up appointment. When this is not possible we contact them by phone and letter, enclosing a stamped address envelope for return. This is often followed up with a second call or letter if not returned. On receipt we follow up with a thank you letter.

What is your top desired holiday destinations?

BLINDED TEAM Debbie - Port Douglas, Australia, Georgia- Artic Circle,

UNBLINDED TEAM Jung - Jeju Island (South Korea) Gladys - Norway, Dorothy - Italy

Top Recruitment Tips from UCLH

Ensure not encroaching on other clinical staff time and speak with them first	Ensure you have a quiet, private space to discuss the study	Introduce yourself and ask if ok if you have a chat with them about the study	Talk to them in general first about journey/ appointment /operation
Explain study in easy to understand language	Give patients the PIS and plenty of time to read	Ask patient if they would be happy to be contacted about the study	Ensure every patient meets eligibility criteria before being given opportunity to take part

Share your photos with us

It has been fantastic to see so many of your photos and some lovely faces on our twitter feed this month. Thank you to everyone for sharing your snaps. Please keep them coming to the addresses below to help build local awareness at your hospital. **Twitter:** @CTU_LSHTM **Email:** preventt@LSHTM.ac.uk



Sandy and Ruth visiting the team at Basildon



Fiona and Lauren at Broomfield with their latest recruitment gift



Sandy had a great time in Liverpool with Pam, Chloe and Helen



It was great to meet Joyce and Sarah in Sheffield

Lyndsay, Connie and Carol enjoying their chocolate pizza gift for recruiting their 22nd patient



Clinical Trials Short Course 25th to 29th June 2018

Last few spaces available!

This course provides attendees with a clear understanding of the fundamental principles of Randomised Clinical Trials (RCTs). Lectures and practical sessions cover the key issues to be considered in design, conduct, analysis and reporting, with a focus on major clinical trials which directly influence clinical practice. Topics are addressed with perspectives from both public sector research and the pharmaceutical industry.

For more information, please visit:

<https://lshtm.ac.uk/study/courses/short-courses/clinical-trials>