



# newsletter

News

Edition 10– April 2017

March has been a very busy month after our successful nurses meeting on 2nd March. A big thank you to all the attendees and speakers at the meeting. Please see page 2 for more details.

Site initiation visits have taken place in Halton Hospital on 6th March, and in Dorset on 22nd March. Both sites opened for recruitment this month alongside Newcastle Upon Tyne who started recruiting on 7th March and Whittington on 29th March. A warm welcome to those sites. We now have 38 sites opened for recruitment.

A reminder that Amendment 8 is awaiting approval with the REC. This includes a change to the protocol, submission of the one-year questionnaires and a leaflet that can be given to participants. Thanks again to Anna-Lena at Central & NW London who helped to develop the final leaflet. We will print them and sent to everyone once we have approval for this.

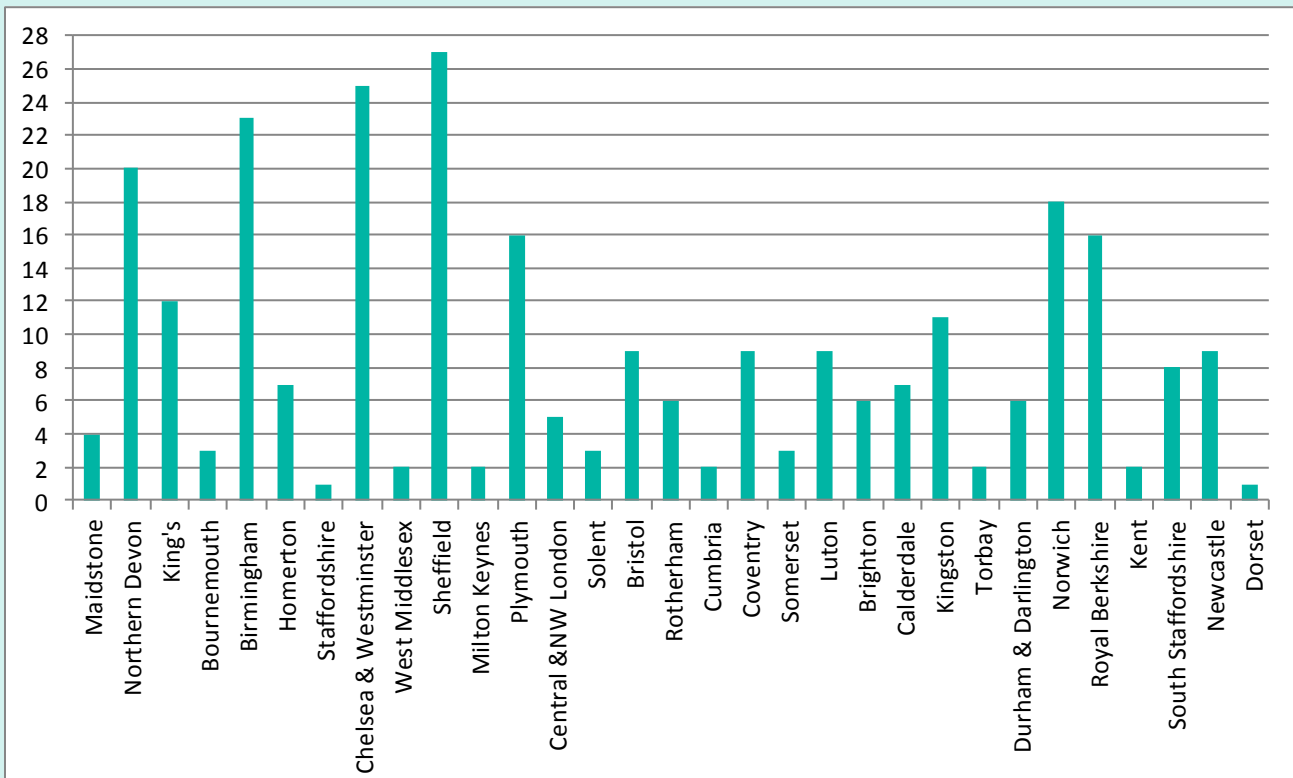
## Recruitment Update

There has been such a big improvement to recruitment this month and your hard efforts really have not gone unnoticed. We have recruited 277 participants which makes March our highest recruiting month so far.



Well done to Victoria and the team at Newcastle Upon Tyne, and Anna and the team at South Staffordshire and Shropshire who have had a great start to recruitment. Fantastic news from Sara and the team at Dorset who have recruited their first participant.

It is brilliant to see that the teams in North Devon, Kings, Birmingham, Milton Keynes, Bristol, Luton, Calderdale and Huddersfield, Kingston, and Royal Berkshire have all topped their previous recruitment figures!



Please refer to our website ([safetxt.lshtm.ac.uk](http://safetxt.lshtm.ac.uk)) for overall recruitment figures into the study.

## Nurses Meeting—March 2017

Thank you for joining us for such a fantastic day at our safetxt nurses meeting. In particular, we would like to thank our nurses Gill Bell from Sheffield, Monika from Birmingham and Nara from Coventry who took the time to put together presentations for the day. Please see below for a summary of their talks.

There were some great suggestions raised about how we can support you and we have been working to address each of these over the last few weeks. Copies of the slides and a summary of the Q&A are also available. Please get in touch with Lauren Jerome ([lauren.jerome@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:lauren.jerome@lshtm.ac.uk)) if you would like these to be sent to you.

### Gill Bell—Nurse Consultant , Sheffield



- All recruitment is done by health advisors. They are all GCP trained, the initial safetxt training is repeated for new members of staff. The health advisors tell patients about the study and they can then either enrol online or if Gill is available she will go and recruit them. More health advisors are now recruiting as well, but if the clinic is busy research comes second. Gill ensures she is always available for support.
- Sheffield primarily target patients coming in for treatment. The patient will not be in clinic for very long for their appointment so it is not a lot to ask them to discuss the study as well.
- As safetxt is a long study it needs driving and support. Gill focuses on the staff that are dealing with the treatment list that day and gives personal reminders and feedback. If newer staff are not as confident in recruiting themselves they can shadow Gill and can always ask her for help.

### Monika Okriak—Senior Research Assistant , Birmingham

- A challenge that Monika has is having other large ongoing research studies to recruit to. She is trying to remind staff to recruit to safetxt with labels and posters in clinic.
- Monika reviews IT reports and patient records. The patients are contacted to ask if they can be seen when they come in for their appointment, or a note is added on to the system to alert other staff that the patient is a potential for safetxt.
- The in-house lab staff at the clinic also inform Monika of any positive results.
- Monika has not been as successful with calling participants. She is hoping to start texting participants at all their clinics so they have the opportunity to join.
- Birmingham have had a campaign recently for requesting test kits online where the results are then sent to Whittall Street. She hopes they may be able to approach more participants through this.



### Nara Nyaradzo —Research Nurse, Coventry



- All staff are added to the delegation log to be able to recruit as it is easy to train staff, including staff working on other studies. It does not take long to see a patient about safetxt and as they can come in at any time anywhere in the clinic it is beneficial to have more staff on board.
- Nara raises awareness of safetxt in multi disciplinary meetings so everyone is aware of the study and patients can be referred to the research team. This is not a lot of work for other staff as the inclusion criteria is simple to remember. Staff rewards also help to improve recruitment, such as certificates.
- Most recruitment is done online as it is more private for the participant and most prefer to join this way. If the system is down or there is more than one participant in clinic, paper forms can be filled out in a private area.
- As patients book in for appointments, they are approached to arrange a time before or after the appointment to discuss the study. Nara provides patients with a slip with their site logo that says 'Can I see you after your appointment' with the nurses name added as a reminder.

## Nurses meeting—March 2017

### **LSHTM will:**

- Create and share certificates that sites could use as a reward for staff who recruit well.
- Work with sites to circulate a generic text message that is sent to participants, examples of how to discuss the study over the phone and how to encourage staff to recruit.
- Provide monthly recruitment figures that are broken down by site.



### **What did you take away from the meeting?**

It was really great to hear your feedback at the end of the meeting about some of the ideas you will take away from the day. We are really interested to hear about whether any of the ideas have made a difference to your team, please get in touch with us if you are happy to share.

- Somerset will be using texting and phoning to recruit.
- Homerton are going to try and see patients before the health advisors meet them.
- Brighton are going to start emphasising that participants are agreeing to take part in all aspects of the study when discussing the study.
- Coventry are going to ask the lab staff to let them know of positive results. They are also going to look at getting a parking space for participants coming in for research. Plymouth suggested R&D may reimburse this for them.
- Luton are going to ask consultants and nurses to help out on the study.
- Birmingham are going to ask evening staff to help with recruitment and advisors to introduce the study to participants so they can then sign themselves up online.

Please note that the Clinical Trials Unit at LSHTM will be closed for the Easter break from Friday 14th April and will reopen on Wednesday 18th April 2017. Please refer to our website ([safetxt.lshtm.ac.uk](http://safetxt.lshtm.ac.uk)) for FAQs.

