

Bristol Study Centre

NEWSLETTER

www.dutystudy.org.uk

Issue 14: The Holiday Issue

August 2011

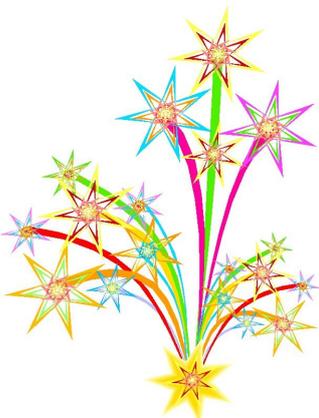
WHOOPEE!

1,525 patients have now been recruited in the Bristol study centre.

THAT IS FANTASTIC!

The 1500th patient was recruited at Romney House Surgery in Tetbury on 15 July.

Congratulations to the RHS Practice Team – a treat is on its way!



JULY MYSTERY PRIZE

Last month's mystery prize was won by Terese Davison of the Crown Medical Centre in Taunton. The monthly mystery prize winner's name is pulled at random (out of the DUTY potty) and everyone who recruits a child in the previous month is automatically entered. Terese wins a £20 M&S voucher. Congratulations Terese, keep up the great work!



What's the difference between recruiting for DUTY and going on holiday?

Aside from the fact that you go on holiday in order to enjoy a change from the million daily tasks of which DUTY is but one, it's not as much as you might think!

You might make a list of holiday essentials, things without which your holiday might not be quite complete, and then tick them off as you squeeze them into your suitcase. Completing the DUTY CRF is rather like that (except, regrettably, without the holiday at the end).

For the DUTY statisticians, having a complete dataset is the next best thing to going on holiday. Much more importantly, however, completing every part of the CRF helps to ensure that all of the children you have recruited so painstakingly can be included in the final analysis. It also means that we can investigate all of the factors that the DUTY scientists believe could inform the algorithm.

The Bristol centre recruiters, from Preston to Penzance, have the best record across the whole study for collecting the clinical obs in section 3 (apart from the O2 sats) and are running a close second for collecting the clinician data in section 4. But the O2 sats data are quite patchy. The DUTY Nurses will be contacting sites that appear to be missing pulse oximetry data for more than 25% of their patients, and hopefully find a way of improving this situation.

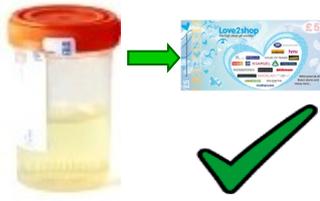
Even the things that might seem less relevant on the surface are important for the data analysis. Could maternal education or the family's finances be linked to the risk of UTI? We don't know, but hope DUTY will be able to tell us.

The completeness of the data collected by Bristol centre sites relating to parental education and finance are also making the DUTY statisticians look glum (see overleaf for advice about how to ask these questions if you have found it challenging to address them to parents).

Thank you for bearing with DUTY, for collecting our data, for making our statisticians happy and, most of all,

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!





May we politely request recruiters to give out the High Street Vouchers only on receipt of a urine sample. The cheesy but catchy motto below may help you to remember this!

No Wee?

NO V



Dear DUTY...

[A temporary Agony Aunt feature]

*"Dear DUTY,
I am worried about offending parents by asking them about personal subjects such as maternal education and family finances, which are not directly related to their child's participation in the study.. What do I say them?"*



D. T. Recruiter, Bristol.

Lyn says: "Initially I was a bit hesitant about asking the Ethnicity and more particularly the Socio Economic questions, however I have never had anyone not want to respond to these questions or even look uncomfortable when I asked them. I now introduce them by saying "I just have a couple of questions about ethnicity and socio-economic status before I concentrate on (name of child's) illness and your family health" and ask the questions in a matter-of-fact way. It was the thought of asking the questions (which at first made me feel uncomfortable) which far outweighed any reluctance on the part of parents to respond."

DUTY Database Strikes Again



We do apologies for the wobbles that the DUTY database has been throwing over the last month. The SLAM technicians (database hosts) have responded rapidly to problems involving the

central server, but sometimes the solution can take longer if they need to liaise with your local IT team.

If you are having problems accessing the database and your local IT are at a loss, **PLEASE CONTACT US** and pass on the name and contact e-mail address (and ideally telephone number) of your local IT support so that we can arrange for SLAM to liaise directly with them to sort it.

If the problems persist for **more than 2 days** please let us know and fax your CRFs to us so that we can ensure that your data is uploaded to the database in good time.

DUTY or TARGET? - That is the question!

TARGET is a new paediatric study from Bristol University led by Dr. Alastair Hay, the Principal Investigator (and Co-Chief Investigator) for DUTY. TARGET aims to improve the targeting of care for children with coughs, colds and chest infections, and has partial overlapping inclusion criteria with DUTY. TARGET will recruit children aged 3 months to <16 years who are presenting to primary care with a cough or RTI <28 days, while DUTY seeks acutely unwell children up to <5 years, presenting to primary care with an acute illness of <28 days duration.

You will know that, given the number of research studies available to GP practices through the PCRN portfolio, occasionally different studies overlap or produce mutual exclusions. Sometimes you have a choice of which study you introduce to a patient.

The DUTY and TARGET investigators have decided that practices cannot be involved with both studies simultaneously due to the risk of introducing bias to one or both studies. This is because it will be almost impossible not to 'select' children to one study or another on account of their age and symptoms.

The DUTY Study has 9 months recruitment left, finishing in April 2012, and we've recruited half our patient population so far. We hope that practices who are recruiting to DUTY continue to work with us to maximise their recruitment potential for the final winter. Then, if you wish to recruit to TARGET you will be seamlessly transferred over. That way, both studies will have the benefit of your fantastic support and commitment, and your practice will have the full benefit of accruals for both studies. TARGET will be recruiting patients until summer early 2013. If you want to talk more about this, please get in touch.



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