

NEWSLETTER

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Issue 1 — October 2011



Top tips for running DUTY

Paxton Green Practice has been running the DUTY study now for over 12 months. Dr Tyrrell Evans, GP Research Champion, shares some tips learned about how to increase recruitment rates, and run the study successfully.

- At the beginning, ensure that the whole team (clinical and administrative staff) are aware of and understand the principals behind the study, and its clinical relevance to patients we see every day.
- Have the lead doctor or nurse in the practice update the team regularly about the study, feeding back progress.
- Remind all clinicians at the start of each day when recruitment is planned.



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Latest figures—keep collecting the urines

The rates of urine retrieval in South East London (Lambeth and Southwark) practices are still low compared to the rest of the country—the Bristol study centre have collected samples for over 90% of the children they recruited. Getting the urine sample is vital, and the main purpose of the study, without it we can't usefully analyse the child's data. South West London has made an excellent start with urines collected from 92% of the children recruited.

	children recruited	% urines collected
South East London - Total	501	81%
Albion Street (2)	58	90%
Binfield Road	17	82%
Blackfriars	27	93%
Brixton Hill	54	81%
Deerbrook	1	0%
DMC Silverlock (2)	1	100%
Dr Gunasantharam (Prentis)	7	71%
East Street (2)	13	85%
Edith Cavell	0	n/a
Exchange	18	83%
Hetherington	12	75%
Lambeth Walk	13	85%
Myatts Field	0	n/a
Norwood (2)	24	96%
Paxton Green (now 2)	141	74%
South Lambeth Road	28	93%
Stockwell	43	77%
Streatham Common (2)	21	76%
Tulse Hill	23	70%
Vauxhall	0	n/a

	children recruited	% urines collected
South West London - Total	157	92%
Brigstock (2)	11	91%
Brunswick (2)	5	60%
Carshalton Fields (2)	0	n/a
Chatfield (2)	3	100%
Green Wrythe (2)	5	100%
Mayfield (2)	4	100%
Open Door (2)	55	98%
Thornton Heath (2)	0	n/a
Upper Norwood (2)	11	82%
Wandle Valley (2)	0	n/a
Wandsworth (2)	21	81%
Wrythe Green (2)	42	93%
SE and SW London Total	658	83%

Figures correct at 19/10/2011

(2): Option 2 practice—running DUTY independently with the practice nurse collecting the urine and completing the parent interview

Tips for success

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- We had one or two reserved doctor appointment slots that our nurses could book relevant patients into which could be freed up if not used.
- We phoned families of children under 5 who had booked appointments before their visit to check their reasons for attending, and check their eligibility for the study.
- Allow some time flexibility for doctors (we tried to see DUTY participants as soon as possible after the nurse finished, which was often earlier or later than anticipated).
- Prepare a standard wording for doctors to help them introduce the study to patients.
- If the practice has a triaging system or Duty Doctor system, that helps a lot. We do and so it was easy to remind the doctor involved of the study on the day.
- There are often a few patients who attend after school and in the last



hour or so of the working day; remember they can be seen by the DUTY nurse the next day and entered into the study provided no antibiotics are given overnight.

- Ensure that doctors are able to book in children to the next day's nurse appointments.
- We had two early positives which were a surprise, but reinforced the concerns about unwell children and the potential benefits of the study.
- Patients do seem to appreciate and value the study.

A better way to run DUTY!

We are inviting all practices to change to *option 2*—where one of your practice's nurses or health care assistants collects the study information and urine samples (instead of our study nurse).

There are several advantages:

- Practices are paid at a much higher rate.
- It allows the flexibility to recruit children any time in the week, and not just during the half day when our nurse is there.
- Useful training and research experience for practice staff

Many small to medium sized practices who have struggled to find enough children in the half day may find this makes a big difference to recruitment rates! The nurse or health care assistant would receive full training in urine collection and running the study.

If you are interested, please email the DUTY project administrator, Marilyn Peters for further details.

STAFF

Sarah Wilson, one of the DUTY research nurses, is leaving to start a new job as a school nurse. Many of you will know her from her involvement in training and recruiting children in many practices. We thank her for her work, and wish her well with her new job.

EQUIPMENT ORDERS

Please fax your equipment orders directly to Marilyn Peters using the new number **0207 848 6620** (please note the number on the DUTY website has yet to be updated). Due to staff shortages we may be unable to send stock at short notice or until the next delivery dates as below. Therefore please anticipate your monthly recruitment and place your next stock order by noon on:

- 7th November for delivery on 9th November.
- 1st December for delivery on 6th December - (please request /allow extra if you are open over Christmas and new year)
- 10th January for delivery on 12th January.

CONTACT DETAILS

Research nurse: (for training issues and support in day-to-day study matters)

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