



Derby's Top Tips for Recruitment & Beyond

Recruitment tips

- Pre-screen clinic lists and send patient information ahead of the clinic visit.
- Run dedicated base of thumb osteoarthritis (BTOA) clinics with the research team available throughout.
- Use the consent guidance document to support balanced discussions about consent and equipoise. For patients concerned about being randomised to the ENGAGE arm after previous therapy, explain that ENGAGE provides valuable strengthening therapy and transferable pain-management skills, and reassure them that additional support can be offered after therapy if clinically needed.
- Use the business cards with the QR code linking to the patient animation video.
- Ask the clinician to review the referral details and/or X-ray before contacting the patient to confirm suitability.

Organisation & follow-up

- Prepare baseline paperwork in advance with patient details, postcode deprivation decile and participant ID already completed.
- Provide therapists with baseline measurements before the first ENGAGE session to maximise patient-facing time.
- Prepare REDCap before follow-up appointments and pre-populate therapy appointment details.
- Keep paper copies of REDCap forms available in case of Wi-Fi or technical issues.
- Use the therapy appointments diary to notify therapists of participants who have undergone surgery so SCOTT therapy forms are completed.
- Where possible, combine research and ENGAGE appointments on the same day to reduce patient travel.

If you have any tips/ things that work really well at your trust to share with other sites, please send them to ytu-scoott-trial@york.ac.uk !