

Collaboration for success

Using team work and communication pathways to ensure successful study recruitment

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Aim

To ensure that all eligible patients for the SNAP3 study would be approached to allow them the opportunity to enter. The study was open for one week and we were keen to recruit as many patients as possible. This poster describes the methods we used to overcome potential barriers to recruitment and successfully recruit 100 patients and approach all eligible patients in one week.



Challenges

Unique communication challenges arose from covering 1,000 surgical beds across two hospital sites with strict green & amber infection prevention control flows to protect elective patients from COVID. As well as having to be able to quickly identify episodes of delirium in patients, we were working within a one-week recruitment window, supporting a research naïve PI and had limited anaesthetic and research delivery staff due to redeployments to support winter pressures.

Conclusion

Each study has its own unique challenges to address. By working as a team and utilising both traditional and new technologies we were able to successfully approach all surgical patients who were admitted to the health board, allowing them the opportunity to contribute to the study.

Follow QR Code for More Information:



QR text code printed on stickers was a quick and efficient way to ensure ward staff were able to access delirium guidelines quickly.

Solutions

In person and online meetings to discuss the logistics of study management & delivery during set up.

Prior to start date close links with R&D to ensure permissions in place; information sent to elective patients in advance & local study packs created for the team.

SNAP3 study recruitment prioritised over other surgical studies for one week.

Dedicated teams to cover Green and Amber areas, staff could move to Amber Zones if required.

In person briefings at the start and end of the day to discuss recruitment strategy and lessons learned.

SharePoint spreadsheet used to communicate recruitment and follow up status of patients throughout the team.

Use of iPads for instant data entry to reduce the need for data duplication.

Use of WhatsApp for quick and efficient communication.

Involvement of Consultant Geriatrician and POPS (perioperative care of patients undergoing surgery).

Anaesthetic trainee Associate PIs (one per hospital) gained experience by coordinating the study at each site.

Expert knowledge & support provided by Research delivery team.

Use of a QR code sticker in patients notes for a quick link to the hospital delirium guidelines.



Who we are

Consultant anaesthetists

Research officers

Trainee anaesthetists

Trial administrator

Research nurses