Maximising access into Clinical Trials

The Plymouth Approach

Recruiting patients onto Clinical trials has always been a struggle due to restrictions with Data protection and access. The Plymouth Haematology department has demonstrated how collaborating and working together has already improved the service, provided more options and offered better care offered to patients from around the UK.

PLYMOUTH HAEMTOLOGY PATHWAY

Referral - We send a regular newsletter of open studies to local hospitals. We receive e mail referrals with the lead research nurse copied in. This is reviewed and if appropriate inclusion/exclusion criteria sent to referring physician for informal pre-screening which helps to ensure that only the patients appropriate for trials attend our department

MDT – research nurse at MDTs to pick up or identify eligible patients/advise on available slot status

Patient

Visit 1 – Seen by PI and Research Nurse, if patient meets criteria and is interested the patient is given PIS. The patient is encouraged to telephone the research team to ask further questions once they have read the information sheet and either informally accept or decline the study

Visit 2 – Screening visit, keep these visits to 1 or 2 days at most

- Take consent prior to any procedures
- Try to do all screening procedures on the same day
- CT and PET can be performed on same day, PET has to be before CT or any invasive procedure (BM or Biopsies)
- Local funded accommodation booked if visit extends over two days

Visit 3 – Cycle 1, Day 1

Tips:

- Prepare well for visits up to 1 week in advance
- Check for time restrictions in screening
- Build relationships with other departments and department medical staff e.g. radiology, laboratories, cardiology, SPR for BM outside of lists
- Keep screening period to a minimum as patients are frightened and/or need treatment quickly. We aim for 2 weeks
    - Be flexible – Answer any referrals in a timely manner
    - See patients outside of clinics
    - Try to fit in with the patient's personal timetable as much as possible

TriNetX

TriNetX is a global healthcare research network advancing clinical research; enabling a synergy between healthcare organisations, biopharmaceutical companies, and Contract Research Organisations (CROs); to improve effective trial design, efficiency, and delivery and to accelerate patient identification for recruitment. UHPNT became a TriNetX member to allow patients the earliest opportunity to access new and innovative treatments and improve their outcomes by participating in all types of clinical research.

TriNetX provides a real-time data analytics platform to query from various healthcare clinical datasets; providing evidence-based identification of patients at the touch of a button. This data can be interrogated by research staff: CI, PI, Research Nurse to Health Care Assistant to inform development, feasibility, delivery and overall research outcomes.

The platform supports anonymised data to be shared with the wider international research environment, including the pharmaceutical industry to deliver faster site selection, invitation and setup building worldwide collaborations.

PPIE: Research sites for rare disease studies, particularly early phase studies tend to be fewer. Patient participation can therefore often incur significant travels demands. Understanding patient pressures through discussion with patients out of region patients has led to the streamlining of visits to minimise patient travel and support a holistic approach.