

Are you thinking of recruiting participants to a large trial?



Recruitment to large trials can be challenging and recruiting in Primary Care or to mental health trials can present additional barriers. The **Alpha-Stim-D Trial** recruited to time and target despite being conducted during the Covid-19 pandemic. This tool provides top tips for academics when recruiting to a large trial.

TIPS FOR RECRUITING SITES



COMMUNICATION

Arrange an introductory meeting to highlight the relevance of the research and identify a key contact or research champion.



CHOICE

Offer a combination of referral approaches e.g. opportunistic or postal invitations.



FEEDBACK

Provide regular updates via a range of communication channels e.g. newsletters.



RECOGNITION

Commend top recruiting sites, offer incentives where possible and acknowledge efforts.

TIPS FOR RECRUITING AND RETAINING PARTICIPANTS



RAPPORT

Call participants as soon as possible to introduce the study and provide the opportunity to ask questions or address concerns.



CONTINUITY

Try to ensure that the same researcher conducts all assessments. Enable participants to feel safe and comfortable throughout the trial.



FLEXIBILITY

Where possible, offer participants appointments outside of traditional office working hours.



UPDATES

Provide regular study updates and invite participants to dissemination events.

THE VALUE OF PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND ENGAGEMENT (PPI/E) IN TRIALS



COLLABORATION

Involve PPI/E representatives throughout the whole study ensuring participant experiences are at the forefront.



TEAM

Try to ensure diversity and treat PPI/E representatives as equal team members and take notice of what they say.



LANGUAGE

Consult with PPI/E representatives to check understandability and accessibility of documents for a non-academic audience. Avoid jargon and acronyms.



RELATIONSHIPS

Discuss results with PPI/E representatives and collaborate with them to develop outputs. Maintain contact and invite them to be involved in future projects.

ENJOY YOUR RESEARCH!