



Recruitment update: 1072

OPTIMA *prelim* – 412 OPTIMA *main* – 658

We recruited 46 patients last month, top recruiting sites were Blackpool, Bristol and NHS Lanarkshire with 3 patients each.

We know how hard you are working to screen and recruit eligible patients, please keep going!



Why is OPTIMA blinded?

We are frequently asked to explain the reason(s) why OPTIMA is partially blinded...

Blinding is done to ensure that, as far as possible, there is no imbalance in chemotherapy treatment between the trial arms. Oncologists may be tempted to treat patients with high-score tumours more aggressively, for example, avoid making dose reductions. Also, if patient's know that they have been allocated the control arm and are keen to avoid chemotherapy they may refuse allocation.



Recruitment tip of the month – Mention OPTIMA early in the appointment

So that the patient knows what's coming, it's helpful to briefly mention OPTIMA at the outset of the appointment. An early mention provides the context for the discussion to follow and prepares the patient for a fuller discussion later in the appointment.

Here's an example of an appointment opener:

C: One of the particular things that we're wanting to mention is a study called 'OPTIMA', a clinical study.

P: Fine, alright.

C: That study is related to decisions about chemotherapy, and that's the main thing that tends to be the focus of what we talk about at this point.

(Recruitment appointment)

Treatment Allocation Appointments

Please remember that allocations are released from the lab to us here at WCTU on a Monday morning. We aim to send all allocations out to site by Monday lunchtime, but sometimes this may be delayed. Please take this into consideration when booking patients in for treatment allocation consultations. We advise sites not to book patients in on a Monday, or book them in for a late appointment if Monday is the only possible appointment day.



We do our best to get all allocation sent as soon as possible on a Monday, but it cannot always be guaranteed.

Thank you for your understanding.



Concomitant Medications

When you are screening patients for OPTIMA please be careful to check whether they are taking any concomitant medications which may exclude them from the trial. If nothing is written in the notes, make a point of asking the patient, perhaps even mention drugs by name. For example, "are you taking Tamoxifen, exemestane, letrozole"



OPTIMA Audio-recording.

If you have a recorder, please can you ask your next eligible patient if you can record the appointment. Contact carmel.conefrey@bristol.ac.uk for more information.

Contact Us

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Qualitative Recruitment Study

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Number of patients randomised per site (30/09/2018)

University Hospital Coventry	32	Milton Keynes University Hospital	5
Mount Vernon Cancer Centre	30	New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton	5
University Hospitals of North Midlands	29	Prince Charles Hospital	5
Blackpool Victoria Hospital	28	Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham	5
Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre	26	Royal Glamorgan Hospital	5
NHS Lanarkshire	21	Royal United Hospital, Bath	5
Addenbrooke's Hospital	20	University Hospital of North Tees	5
Peterborough City Hospital	20	Whittington Hospital	5
The Christie	18	Belfast City Hospital	4
Velindre Cancer Centre	17	Darent Valley Hospital	4
Wrexham Maelor Hospital, Wrexham	17	Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital	4
Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre	15	North Middlesex Hospital	4
Derriford Hospital, Plymouth	15	Nottingham University Hospital	4
Royal Alexandra and Inverclyde Hospitals	14	Royal Cornwall Hospital	4
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead	12	Southampton General Hospital	4
Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital	12	Sunderland Royal Hospital	4
Salisbury District Hospital	12	University College London Hospital	4
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay	11	Airedale General Hospital	3
Glan Clwyd Hospital, Bodelwyddan	10	Bradford Royal Infirmary	3
Royal Free Hospital	10	Chase Farm Hospital	3
Stepping Hill Hospital	10	Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary	3
Luton and Dunstable University Hospital	9	East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	3
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan	9	Maidstone Hospital	3
Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley	9	Pennine Acute Hospitals	3
Torbay Hospital	9	Queens Hospital, Burton upon Trent	3
Frimley Park Hospital	8	Royal Hampshire County Hospital	3
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	8	St Mary's Hospital, Isle of Wight	3
Royal Gwent Hospital	8	Western General Hospital, Edinburgh	3
Barnet Hospital	7	Ysbyty Gwynedd, Bangor	3
Darlington Memorial Hospital	7	Birmingham City Hospital	2
East Kent Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	7	Broomfield Hospital	2
Forth Valley Hospital	7	Chesterfield Royal Hospital	2
Macclesfield District Hospital	7	Hinchingbrooke Hospital	2
St Margaret's Hospital, Epping	7	Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Trust	2
Weston Park Hospital, Sheffield	7	University Hospital Crosshouse	2
George Eliot Hospital	6	Basildon University Hospital	1
Lister Hospital	6	Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital	1
Musgrove Park Hospital	6	Churchill Hospital, Oxford	1
Royal Shrewsbury Hospital	6	Leighton Hospital	1
York Hospital	6	Ulster Hospital	1
Bedford Hospital	5	Weston General Hospital	1
Medway Maritime Hospital	5		