

Research Office

Readying for speedy recruitment

This document summarises the steps that researchers can take prior to R&D approval to ensure that they are ready to recruit quickly when they receive their approvals.

Is there anything that I can do without R&D approval to help recruitment?

As researchers work with the Research Office prior to submission, there are some things that they can do prior to approval that can really speed up patient recruitment.

Screening

If the researcher is part of the anticipated cohort's routine direct care team they will already have access to the clinical notes. As such they can screen the patients' notes or EPR for eligibility.

This only applies to those members of a patient's routine direct care. Research personnel outside of the direct care team cannot access patient notes without their consent and will have to wait for R&D study approval before screening.

Staff engagement

It is a good idea to ensure that colleagues are aware of all research projects that are ongoing or in set-up. Short agenda points could be added to existing meetings to discuss inclusion criteria for projects.

It's also a good idea to create posters that outline inclusion/exclusion criteria; these can then be put up in staff areas. This will increase the likelihood that colleagues will refer patients to the study for potential recruitment.

Patient engagement

Researchers can talk to the patients under their care about the importance of research and the sort of research that they undertake in the unit. The more patients are engaged the more likely it is that they will consider taking part in any future projects.

Researchers can create posters that outline the fact that the unit undertakes research. Advertise the type of research that goes on and any benefits which have arisen as a result. These posters need to be generic rather than mentioning specific projects. It is alright to mention studies which are now no longer recruiting.

It is very important that researchers do not use posters for recruitment to specific projects without REC approval.