

The CHOICE Trial Newsletter

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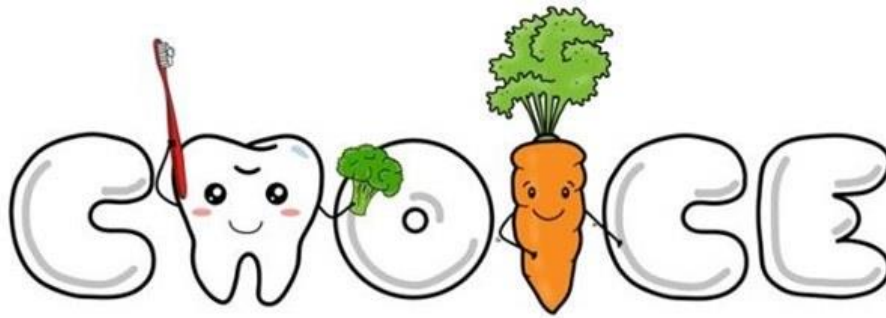
KIPPAX DESIGN

The CHOICE Trial Newsletter

Winter 2024 Edition

Queen's University, Belfast

In This Edition...



Welcome to the third edition of the CHOICE Newsletter! Here you will find the following updates to trial progress:

- **CHOICE Progress Summary - Key Milestones**
- **Site Setup/Training**
- **CHOICE Facilitators**
- **Sites and Recruitment**
- **The Associate PI Scheme**
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1 - Happy New Year from The CHOICE Research Team at Queen's University Belfast!

Trial Progress - Key Milestones



- **Recruitment has begun!** The first participant was randomised on the 4th September 2023, a massive milestone for the trial. There are now twenty participants recruited, with a hope that this number grows quickly over the coming weeks and months as more sites open. While we are behind our targets for recruitment, we are hopeful if every site opened were to recruit even 2-3 participants per month, we could soon catch up. Please let us know how we can help you reach this target and beyond.
- The Study Within A Trial (SWAT) is now published on the Queen's University Belfast NI Network for Trials Methodology Research SWAT repository and can be accessed here: <https://shorturl.at/kHNUY>
- The RedCAP system now has a test facility so you can practice before recruiting your first participants. RedCAP is also now updated to allow research nurses to view recruitment figures and to show reasons for patients ineligibility. This will be a great help in troubleshooting and aid in boosting recruitment figures.

Changing Habits To Prevent Child Caries

- The trial has now been formally listed on The International Standard Randomised Controlled Trial Registry, which is recognised by the World Health Organisation and provides the unique identification number necessary for future publication. See <https://doi.org/10.1186/ISRCTN87811904>
- Regular Trial Management Committee meetings have been held to update the team on trial progress and plan for upcoming activities.

Site Setup/Training



Fourteen sites have now been successfully opened for recruitment across all four regions, each with its own team of enthusiastic dental nurses and dental practitioners.

Additional site trainings are set to take place in the coming weeks, led by Pauline, Cynthia and Marc. We welcome the fantastic additions to the trial in all participating regions:

- Cheshire and Merseyside
- East of England
- Northern Ireland
- Yorkshire and Humberside

CHOICE Facilitators

Across all four regions, dental nurses have been continuing to send in their practice CHOICE DR-BNI recordings and we have been extremely impressed by the quality.

Following the DR-BNI nurses training, It is important to send in DR-BNI recordings as soon as possible so dental nurses can be certified to deliver the intervention.

We now have over 40 dental nurses who have been approved and certified as CHOICE Trial Facilitators!

Congratulations everyone on your hard work in becoming facilitators!

As a reminder, there is a study drop-in session every Wednesday from 1:00 - 1:30pm on teams for all sites.

This is a great opportunity to speak with the team if you have any questions or ideas regarding any aspect of the study.

Moving forward, we hope to use each of these sessions to focus on a specific topic area (e.g., 'using RedCap'). If you have any particular topic in mind please contact Nicola, our trial administrator n.carlin@qub.ac.uk or choice.study@liverpool.ac.uk. However, all types of questions will be welcome at each drop-in session so please come along so we can support you the best we can.

Sites and Recruitment

Recruitment has begun! The first participant was randomised on the 4th September 2023. Recruitment continues, with currently twenty participants randomised.

Congratulations everyone on all your hard work in getting your practices ready for recruitment.

We need to progress the number of recruits quickly in the early weeks and months of 2024 to show NIHR the confidence we can succeed with recruitment, so keep up all the fantastic work and don't hesitate to contact us with any queries you may have. The CHOICE team are here to support you in anyway we can. Contact n.carlin@qub.ac.uk or choice.study@liverpool.ac.uk



Associate PI Scheme



The Associate PI Scheme is now up and running for the trial.

- The scheme is a six month, in-work training opportunity, allowing healthcare professionals to gain practical research experience.
- Once completed, you will gain Associate PI status and receive a NIHR and Royal College endorsed certificate to indicate the study, time period, and centre at which you were certified.
- This is a fantastic opportunity for dental staff to receive formal recognition for the work they're already doing as part of the CHOICE trial.
- We have had our first two applicants approved for the NIHR Associate PI Scheme which is a great achievement. Please contact us if you want support for this via Nicola n.carlin@qub.ac.uk.

If you are interested in joining the Associate PI Scheme, please speak to your regional research nurse. If you would like to know more about the scheme click [here](#).

Email: associatepiscHEME@nihr.ac.uk

Thanks to all the staff who have already signed up!

CHOICE Study Within A Trial (SWAT)

Running alongside the trial during the initial recruitment phase is the Study Within a Trial (SWAT), which is an optional recruitment-enhancing activity to engage non-dental attenders.

The aim of the SWAT is to enhance recruitment to the CHOICE Trial in irregular dental-attending children and to explore the facilitators and barriers to recruitment of the target population.

The activity is being run by the research team at Queen's University Belfast and involves dental nurses in the initial CHOICE sites opened for recruitment engaging with two local nursery or primary schools and arranging for 4-7 year-olds to receive letters to take home encouraging them to go to their local CHOICE dental practice for a check-up if they don't already have a dentist.

Primary caregivers who consent to take part in an interview will be asked about the things that helped them decide whether to take part in the CHOICE trial.

This is an exciting opportunity to investigate a potential method for increasing recruitment to a clinical trial and for engaging potentially high-risk children who might otherwise be missed by interventions.

There are currently 14 sites participating in the SWAT. A massive thank you to those taking part.

ENCOURAGE



Exciting additional research is being conducted as part of CHOICE to explore *how* the CHOICE trial works. Dr Fionnuala Lundy from Queen's University Belfast is the Primary Investigator on an efficacy and mechanism evaluation study called ENCOURAGE.

Elucidating the mechanism of action of behavioural changes on Child tooth decay in the Randomised controlled CHOICE trial – a role for salivary lactic Acid? (ENCOURAGE).

The study involves saliva samples being collected at the initial participant visit as well as 6 months after delivery of the CHOICE intervention and will investigate whether the acid levels in saliva change as a result of the behavioural changes that participants make. Let us know if you are keen to be involved in this sub-study.

[Parenting NI Participant Website](#)



We are delighted to announce the launch of the the CHOICE Participant Website, co-designed and hosted by our wonderful partners at Parenting NI.

On the website, CHOICE participants can find information about the study and we will post regular updates in the 'news section' regarding trial progress and reminders about follow-up questionnaires.

Welcome To The Team!



Since the last update, the following people have joined the CHOICE team:

- **Amy Rawsthorne.** Amy is the Research Nurse in Cheshire & Merseyside. She has already proven to be a very knowledgeable addition to CHOICE, having worked on previous clinical trials. We look forward to working with her.

Research Dental Nurses

Meet the fantastic Research Dental Nurses who will be supporting trial recruitment in each region.



2 - Stacy Topping, Northern Ireland



3 - Anna Nielsen, Yorkshire and The Humber



4 - Wendy Lodge, Essex and East Anglia

The CHOICE Team



5 - Professor Pauline Adair, Chief Investigator



6 - Dr Girvan Burnside, Statistical Lead/Co Chief Investigator



7 - Professor Cynthia Pine CBE, Dental Lead



8 - Dr Ikhlas El Karim, Clinical Lead for Northern Ireland



9 - Dr Peter Day, Clinical Lead for West Yorkshire



10 - Professor Nick Barker, Clinical Lead for Essex and East Anglia



11 - Professor Sondos Albadri, Co-Clinical Lead for Cheshire and Merseyside



12 - Professor Fadi Jarad, Co-Clinical Lead for Cheshire and Merseyside



13 - Catherine Spowart, Liverpool Clinical Trials Centre



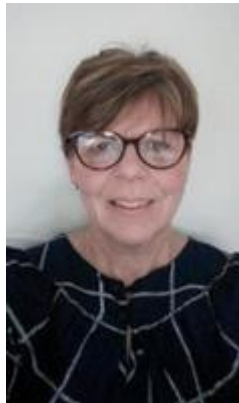
14 - Professor Ciaran O'Neill, Lead for Health Economics



15 - Professor Sue Pavitt, PPI Advisor



16 - Professor Fionnuala Lundy, Lead for PPI, ENCOURAGE PI



17 - Muriel Bailey, Parenting NI



18 - Professor Aidan Feeney, Lead for Process Evaluation



19 - Dr Marc Edwards, Postdoctoral Research Fellow



20 - Nicola Carlin, Trial Administrator

Contact Us

If you would like to find out more about the trial or have any specific trial-related queries, please contact us:

choice.study@liverpool.ac.uk

