

The TRECA study: TRials Engagement in Children and Adolescents

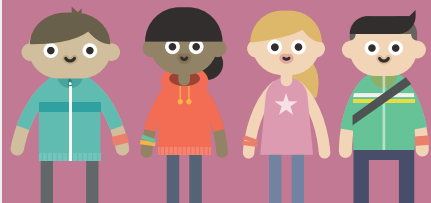
Paediatric trials are important to inform healthcare decisions for children and adolescents. However, recruitment and retention can be low, possibly due to the conventional printed participant information sheet (PIS) which can be long and difficult to read.

A promising alternative is to use multimedia information (MMI) resources

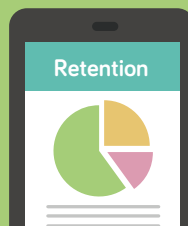
MMIs are websites with a combination of animation, text, diagrams and video. They can be viewed on a computer, smartphone or tablet.

The TRECA (TRials Engagement in Children and Adolescents) study is evaluating the potential for MMIs to:

Improve recruitment to trials



Increase retention within trials



Improve the quality of decision-making about participation



The TRECA study is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR HS&DR 14/21/21).

Phase one: MMI Development

The TRECA study has developed two MMI templates:

- One for younger children and their parents
- One for older children, adolescents and their parents.

The MMIs have been developed based on the feedback and preferences of children and adolescents with long-term health conditions and their parents.



Phase two: MMI Evaluation

The effectiveness of the MMIs will be evaluated in a series of trials embedded within six host trials.

We are now looking to recruit ongoing and upcoming UK trials that could embed the TRECA MMIs.

The embedded trial (aka 'trial within a trial') will be run with potential participants of each host trial – these people will be randomly allocated to receive:

- the MMI plus the PIS, or
- the MMI alone, or
- the PIS alone.

The outcomes measured will be recruitment rates, retention rates and quality of decision-making.

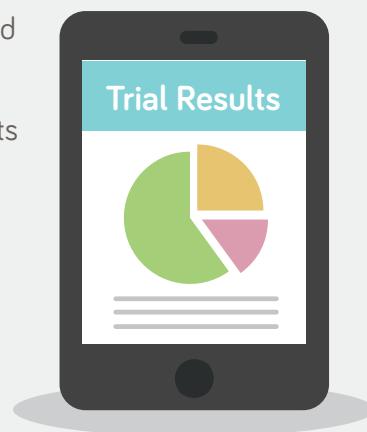
The data from the six embedded recruitment trials will be combined in an Individual Participant Data Meta-Analysis (IPD-MA).

The TRECA study will assist host trials to develop high quality information resources.

The TRECA team will utilise the extensively tested MMI templates and use its expertise to develop engaging and informative trial-specific content (the host trial would have final sign off on this).

The TRECA team will also provide support for submitting the ethics amendment(s) required.

Further, the use of the MMIs may assist with trial recruitment rates and there will be the opportunity for a joint host trial/TRECA publication from the embedded trial.



Host trial eligibility criteria

- Not already using digital information in recruitment
- Recruiting children and adolescents with long-term health conditions in the UK
- At least some of the trial participants have the potential to be involved in decision-making
- Willingness to share recruitment and retention data with TRECA



Contact us

If you would like further information about the TRECA study or want to discuss a possible host trial for Phase two, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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