

***The effectiveness of a Web-based virtual journal club to promote medical Education
(Web-Ed)***

Participant information sheet

What is the Web-Ed trial and what are its objectives?

This trial is aiming to evaluate if and how to implement an internet-based educational journal club to help medical trainees gain relevant medical knowledge in a flexible and effective structure compared to the traditional in house face to face journal club.

Why is this study needed?

We surveyed fellow medical trainees and appreciate the need to evaluate the benefits of modern telecommunication technology to facilitate the process of learning and offer more flexibility. To date, most literature about the use of medical journal clubs is driven by educators with minimal input from trainees. For that reason, we aim to conduct this study to provide direct evidence on the best educational methods preferred by trainees to guide future medical education.

What will happen if I agree to take part?

You will be randomly allocated to attend either a virtual web-based journal club that can be accessed using your mobile smartphone or to a traditional face-to-face group journal club. We will ask you to read and discuss an article chosen by the trial team and fellow trainees, then we will ask you to complete a short test after the journal club to assess knowledge acquisition and retention.

Why I have been chosen to participate?

As you are affiliated to an accredited medical training programme, you are likely to have attended journal clubs as part of routine medical education at your home institution. Therefore, we are interested to capture your experience and views on this important educational tool to help improve future education and make it more relevant to trainees' needs.

What kind of information is collected in Web-Ed?

We will only collect basic personal information about you and your grade of medical training. We will also ask you to complete a short test to assess your knowledge acquisition after the planned journal club and knowledge retention one week after. The test should not take more than 5-10 minutes to complete. You will have the opportunity to complete a qualitative survey to share your views and opinion about this educational experience.

What are the benefits of participating in Web-Ed?

As medical trainees, we are partners in the educational process to help deliver quality medical education in the UK. You will have the opportunity to guide future educational efforts to make them more relevant and beneficial for medical trainees.

Will participant personal information be kept confidential?

All information collected in the Web-Ed trial are strictly confidential and will not be shared with any third party. No personal identifiable data will be published or disclosed publically. We will follow the principle of personal data protection set by the department of health and the European Union GDPR rules. Every participant will have full ownership of their data with the right to withdraw and be excluded and forgotten from the trial at any stage without any consequences.

Are there any risks for taking part in Web-Ed?

No, the trial will not include any risk to the participants.

Can I withdraw from the study if I do not want to continue?

Yes, all participants can withdraw at any point without the need to justify their decision. Simply contact the trial principal investigator expressing your wish to withdraw and the trial team will confirm this in writing as soon as possible.

What happens when the study finishes?

We aim to publish the findings of the study in leading peer-reviewed medical journals to share the trial's results publically.

Who to contact if I have any further questions?

You can contact the trial co-ordinator, principal investigator or the chief investigator by email at any time.

Who has checked the study?

The trial has been assessed and approved by an independent Ethical Research Committee in the NHS. The trial is sponsored and monitored independently by the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust.