

A randomised controlled trial of changing radiology referrals across the primary secondary interface

Submission date 23/01/2004	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☐ Prospectively registered ☐ Protocol
Registration date 23/01/2004	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☒ Results
Last Edited 09/11/2022	Condition category Other	☐ Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol
Not provided at time of registration

Contact information

Type(s)
Scientific

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
PSI B-9

Study information

Scientific Title

A randomised controlled trial of changing radiology referrals across the primary secondary interface

Study objectives

Our aim was to evaluate the effectiveness of two methods of changing general practitioners' radiology ordering behaviour as active strategies for implementing the Royal College of Radiologists (RCR) guidelines. One of these (audit and feedback) is widely used alone and is of questionable effectiveness and the other (investigation specific prompts) is seldom used routinely but of unknown impact in combination with audit and feedback. The prior hypothesis was that either intervention alone would be more effective than the control intervention (a postal copy of the guidelines) and that both interventions together would be more effective than either alone.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Not provided at time of registration

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Randomised controlled trial

Study type(s)

Screening

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Radiology referrals

Interventions

1. Control - postal paper copy of guidelines covering radiographs of the knee and lumbar spine
2. Intervention practices received in addition postal audit and feedback on use of the target investigations and investigation specific educational reminder messages about the relevant use of the investigation

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Specified

Primary outcome(s)

The main study outcome was the rate of ordering of x-rays measured over two 12 month periods, the second of which formed the intervention period.

Key secondary outcome(s)

Secondary outcomes were a costing study from the perspective of radiology departments and an assessment of the concordance of x-ray requests with criteria derived from guidelines.

Completion date

31/01/2000

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

The study was based in six radiology departments (in both district general and teaching hospitals) in the north east of England and Grampian region in Scotland. All 247 general practices, with the exception of one university practice, that were served entirely by these radiology departments were included in the study.

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Not Specified

Sex

Not Specified

Total final enrolment

244

Key exclusion criteria

Not provided at time of registration

Date of first enrolment

01/10/1997

Date of final enrolment

31/01/2000

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Centre for Health Services Research

Newcastle Upon Tyne

United Kingdom

NE2 4AA

Sponsor information

Organisation

Record Provided by the NHS R&D 'Time-Limited' National Programme Register - Department of Health (UK)

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

NHS Primary and Secondary Care Interface National Research and Development Programme (UK)

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

Not provided at time of registration

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article		05/05/2001		Yes	No
Other publications		01/04/2003		Yes	No