

Recruitment protocol for Patient Reported Outcome Measure (PROM) pilot

Background information

This project is aiming to test the feasibility of collecting Patient Reported Outcome Measure (PROM) data in private practice using either a mobile phone or web app. The PROM app is available either in web-based or mobile versions for Android products. It is not possible to download the app onto Apple products. It will be possible to access the web app using an IPAD or an iPhone.

Data will be collected independent to the osteopath. Depending on your practice circumstances it should be possible offer patients who agree to participate either two or three options for completion:

- Download the app onto an Android phone or tablet;
- Complete the PROM via the Internet on a computer at home;
- Complete the PROM via the Internet on a computer in the practice if this is appropriate.

A list of common phone makes and whether they are Apple or Android will be made available to the patients and the practice to avoid any potential confusion.

Patient eligibility

At this stage in the app development we are focussing on:

- Adult patients (age 18 years and over) either new or current;
- Patients reporting spinal pain i.e. in either the lumbar, thoracic, or cervical spine;
- Patients who have an email address.

Recruitment

Patients will be invited to participate in the PROM data collection pilot. This can include either new patients or existing patients. They will be provided with a participant information sheet which describes the purpose of the project, and importantly what will happen to their data.

If patients agree to participate they should be asked which medium they are most likely to use to complete the app i.e. home computer, practice computer, or mobile app.

Patients will be given a unique enrol code to allow initial data to be submitted via the app. When using the app, patients will be asked to provide an email address.

Patients will be asked to submit some follow up data at 1 week, and then after six weeks to allow their progress to be recorded. The follow up questionnaires will be emailed to patients via a link. No other action will be required by the practice to collect follow up data.

What will be required from the practice?

You will be asked to recruit 15 consecutive patients to complete the app. This may mean asking more than 15 consecutive patients as some will not be suitable e.g. they will have non-spinal problems, or they may not wish to participate.

You will be asked to record how many patients are suitable, agree to participate, and the medium they prefer to use to complete the PROM using the app. No patient identifiable data should be sent outside of your practice.

You will also be asked to record the unique enrol code you give to the patient to avoid duplication of codes. Data collection can start on any day to suit the practice.

You will be asked to remind the patient that if they have any problems associated with the app they should contact Carol Fawkes and not the practice.

What will the practice get back from this process?

The practice will receive analysed data concerning all of the patients who participated. Individual patient data will not be given to the practice. Analysed data collected from the practice will include information concerning:

Patients' age range and mean (average) age;

Patients' work status;

Patients' gender;

Patients' ethnicity;

Change in symptoms based on the Bournemouth Questionnaire;

Change in symptoms based on the Roland Morris Questionnaire;

Patients' global change in health status based on a transition question (i.e. completely recovered, Much improved, slightly improved, No change, slightly worse, Much worse);

Change in symptoms based on a visual analogue scale.

Patients' experience of the practice;

Patients' satisfaction with the practice.

This data will be potentially useful to the practice in terms of profiling and assessing overall change in the patient population consulting the practice

Ethical approval

This study has received ethical approval from the ethics committee at Barts and The London Queen Mary's School of Medicine and Dentistry.

If there are any other queries, they should be directed to Carol Fawkes either via email (c.fawkes@gmul.ac.uk) or by telephone (07732178308).