

Sample Email

Letter used to introduce the idea of adding a research introductory sentence to outpatient letters. This was sent from the DeNDRoN Local Research Network Director to Consultant Colleagues.

From: Barber, Robert
Sent:
To:
Cc:
Subject: Empowering patients to enquire about research participation

Attachments: CC letter and Project Brief

Empowering patients to enquire about research participation

Dear _____

I would be grateful if I could seek your support with implementing a project we have been tasked to achieve by DeNDRoN's Co-ordinating Centre (see attached file for further details).

The project will explore the feasibility of adding a sentence to all outpatient appointment letters within Old Age Psychiatry within the NTW trust – which invites the patient to ask the clinician about research. The suggested sentence would be **“If you are interested in finding out more about clinical research in the trust, please ask your doctor or nurse”**. Using a simple and inexpensive strategy - this project focuses on empowering the patient, to clearly inform the patient of their right under the NHS constitution to ask about research and have the opportunity to take part.

To support clinicians, we will provide NE DeNDRoN contact details to give to their patients as appropriate, and DeNDRoN staff will follow this up accordingly (with patients signed up to the patient list should they wish to).

This is part of a wider range of “INTERACT” Projects that focus on improving patient participation by embedding NHS clinical research in normal care pathways. This has been endorsed nationally by the Department of Health and emerged as a key outcome from the Ministerial Advisory Group on Dementia Research last year (the findings of which were published in [MAGDR Report 2011](#)).

We have a fairly tight deadline to work to, with regular reporting on our progress. Ultimately the project will aim to evaluate whether this approach is effective.

The aims of the project are in keeping with the Trust's R&D strategy, and has support from the R&D Director.



I hope this seems an acceptable way forward, and I would be happy to liaise with the relevant staff within the trust subsequent to your approval.

Many thanks

Dr _____

