



# The Sunflower Study

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 4  
Winter  
2023



## A message from the CI:

Dear All,  
**Great news!!!**

Earlier in the year we heard from NIHR that we have been granted an extension to allow us to complete Sunflower recruitment. Also, we have recalculated the target number which is now **7,457**, down from the original number of 13,680. Currently we have recruited **6,341**.

In summary we now have until **June 2024** to recruit a further **1,152** patients. This is very possible!! Everybody including our new sites need to produce one last drive to get over the line!

Many thanks for your support, we will be in touch with you and your team soon.

*Prof Giles Toogood, Chief Investigator*

## Extension Confirmed!



The study to continue recruitment until **31st May 2024**. The study itself will close **30th November 2025**.

We have close to **1,100** patients left to recruit. Can you help us reach this number by the deadline??

## Hints & Tips !



Congratulations to Leeds and Worcester who have recruited **over 500 patients** to the study!

The **Worcester Team** have shared this tip:

*"Just keep screening! Screen and approach as many patients as you can in clinics and as in-patients, as most patients are more than happy to participate in the study 😊"*



## Site Targets !



We recently heard from the CEO of the NIHR, Lucy Chappell, to say:

*"Sites are expected to continue recruitment to the end of study on a national basis, even if this entails recruiting over their initially set target."*

We are so pleased to see that many sites are going above and beyond to get us towards the target. If you do have any queries relating to local R&D issues or targets, please do email us on [sunflower-study@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:sunflower-study@bristol.ac.uk)

## What has changed with the Sunflower extension?



This is a reminder that the recent decision to extend the Sunflower study **does not have any impact on or changes to study conduct**.

However, please ensure you have the up-to-date versions\* of

- 1. Protocol – version 7.0**
- 2. PIL – version 8.0** - this needs to be localised and returned to us asap
- 3. Manual – version 5.0**

\*All new versions are in the TMF on the Sunflower TMS



**Total recruitment:**  
**6,341/ 7,457**

## Abandoned surgeries and documentation

We recently added a new field to the surgical forms to allow teams to document abandoned surgeries. If you are entering these into the database and the patient may come in for another lap chole attempt on a future date, please ensure you leave the C2 form blank and add the abandoned surgery on **the new C2X form**. This allows us to monitor who are due future lap choles. Thanks!  
For all queries on these cases, do get in touch.



## Associate PI Scheme



Trainees are **crucial** for recruitment to the Sunflower Study - **thank you to all those involved so far** and do continue to galvanise engagement with the study!  
Trusts can have **2 surgical APIs and one radiology API at a time**. This is a brilliant way of working in collaboration with a radiology colleague to boost your recruitment numbers.  
Finally, with the **rotation of new junior doctors**, this is a perfect time to introduce the Sunflower study!  
Remember the Sunflower study **regional representatives and Trainee Executive Group** are on hand for any queries or questions related to the study. Happy recruiting !



## eConsent – want to be a part of it?

eConsent has taken off in Sunflower since we added it as an option in 2021. We have seen sites boost their monthly recruitment by approaching patients to consent online.

**300+ consents have now come through this route!**

Is your site using it? If not, do get in touch and we can set up a **training session!**

In January we are going to send out a 5-10 minute **questionnaire via email** asking for your opinions on eConsent. We would value your opinions, whether you have used it in Sunflower or not!

## Contact Details

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@SunflowerStudy

