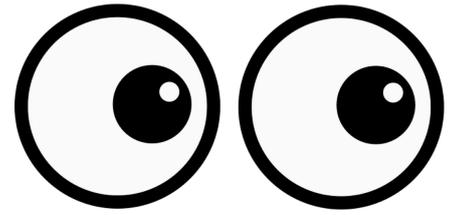


# RAPSODI-UK

## BLINDING INFORMATION



OCTOBER 2025

Well done and thank you for your efforts in maintaining blinding and keeping it to only **14%** of participants unblinded so far. This is a great achievement and we're very grateful to you & your colleagues for this.

Maintaining blinding is important as it helps ensure that trial results are unbiased and trusted by clinicians, patients, and policymakers.

### MOST COMMON REASONS FOR UNBLINDING:



**DISCHARGE  
LETTERS**



**DISCHARGE  
DISCUSSIONS**



**CLINIC  
LETTERS**

We understand that it is a challenge to keep all staff informed of which patients are blinded participants on RAPSODI, and that local processes vary as to how these letters/discharge discussions are undertaken.

We recommend that all sites please consider the following to prevent unblinding when writing letters and having discussions with patients:

Who on the delegation log is responsible for implementing blinding and ensuring letters or discharge conversations do not lead to unblinding?



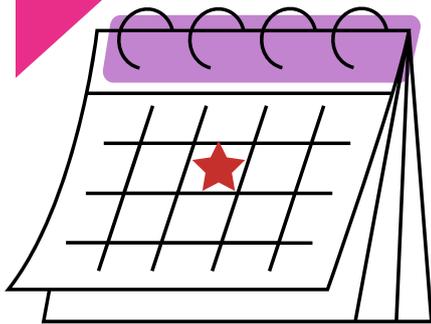


Which staff are involved in discharge letters/discussions? If it is rotating staff, is there anything that can be done to help these members of staff keep the participant blinded?

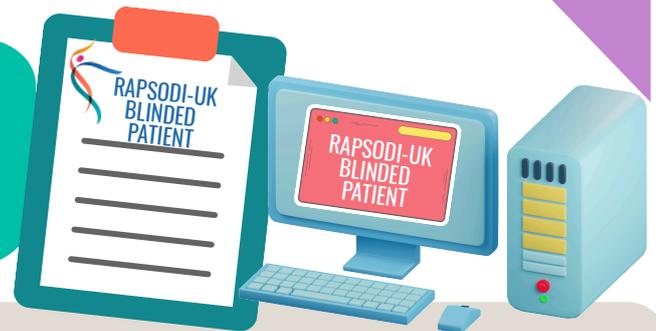
Is there an appropriate meeting with staff where this can be raised and a solution identified to try and prevent unblinding from occurring in these instances?



Can an audit be done every **three months** to ensure that blinding is being maintained in these letters and conversations?



Can either electronic flags and/or stickers be added to patient medical notes as a reminder that the patient is in the study and should be kept blinded?



Clinic and discharge letters usually contain a section or heading stating what surgical procedure has been performed. Can standard text for all study participants in clinic and discharge letters stating something like "patient has received a shoulder replacement as part of the RAPSODI trial for shoulder osteoarthritis"?



We hope that you will find these suggestions useful. If anything else comes to mind when discussing / implementing this with your colleagues, please do contact us at [ytu-rapsodi@york.ac.uk](mailto:ytu-rapsodi@york.ac.uk). This is so that we can share ideas/good practice within our network of sites.

RAPSODI  
UK

[ytu-rapsodi@york.ac.uk](mailto:ytu-rapsodi@york.ac.uk)



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