

Spring 2021

Meet our Chief Investigator

Professor Jo Dumville is Professor of Applied Health Research within the Division of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work at The University of Manchester and leads the Wounds Research Group.



Jo has worked on several clinical trials, having previously led the VenUS IV trial which compared four layers of bandages with two layers of hosiery for the treatment of venous leg ulcers.

What is VenUS 6?

Venous Ulcer Study 6 is a **randomised controlled clinical trial** which aims to compare different types of compression therapy to treat venous leg ulcers. Each of these types of compression therapy are already used regularly in clinical practice, but we do not know which is most likely to provide the greatest benefit:

- **Compression wraps**
- **Four layers of bandages or two layers of hosiery (Evidence-Based Compression)**
- **Two layers of bandages**

VenUS 6 aims to find out which of the treatments is most likely to heal venous leg ulcers and how much each of the treatments costs to use.

What is PPI?

Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in research is defined as research being carried out 'with' or 'by' members of the public, rather than 'to', 'about' or 'for' them. More about this definition can be found in the information provided by INVOLVE, an organisation set up by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in 1996 to support public involvement in NHS, public health and social care research. You can find out more about INVOLVE at www.involve.org.uk.

PPI is ongoing throughout VenUS 6 – we are always seeking new members to join our Patient Advisory Group and have lots of different ways for people to get involved. People might choose to participate because they have or have had a venous leg ulcer, or simply because they have an interest in research in this subject area. How people can be involved is flexible: whilst we may sometimes have face-to-face meetings with our contributors when these are allowed, much of the work can be done remotely, by post, phone, or email.

Here are a few examples of how you could get involved:

- Giving your opinions on the ideas we have
- Reading and editing documents
- Answering specific questions we have
- Signposting new members to the group

To find out more, please contact Ross Atkinson by phone on 0161 306 7661 or email ross.atkinson@manchester.ac.uk

Fast Fact: What is randomisation?

Randomisation is a way of choosing the treatment each person in a clinical trial will get. Randomisation means each person's treatment given is selected at random (by chance) from a set of options. The treatment is not chosen by the patient or their health professional—instead we do this using a computer. Randomisation is one way of helping us to make sure the trial is a fair test.

VenUS 6 progress

So far, **39** sites (NHS Trusts and GP practices) have signed up to take part in VenUS 6. Those marked in green on the map below are the six sites actively recruiting participants. As of May 2021, **20** patients with venous leg ulcers have volunteered to participate in the trial. We are grateful for the participation of all patients and staff helping to make this important study happen, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic which has made starting new research very difficult.



Sites in **green** have started recruiting participants.

Sites marked in **blue** are almost ready to start recruitment.

Those in **purple**, **grey** or **yellow** are currently being set up.

If you would like more information about being involved in VenUS 6 as a patient, carer or public contributor, please contact:

Dr Ross Atkinson

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