

Autumn 2021

Meet our Trial Manager

Catherine Arundel has been a Trial Manager at York Trials Unit since 2019. Catherine has an interest in wound care and methodological research.



Before becoming a Trial Manager, Catherine worked at York Trials Unit as a trial coordinator, trial support officer and research secretary to provide support to a variety of musculoskeletal and mental health research.

A reminder about 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 most quickly and how much each of the treatments costs to use.

How could you get involved?

We are always looking for people to get involved in our research as patient or public contributors. Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in research is defined as research being carried out 'with' or 'by' members of the public. This is different to research that is done 'to', 'about' or 'for' people—that often involves the **participation** of people in the research study itself. **Participants** in our research are recruited through our clinical sites—see page 2 of this newsletter to see how many people have been recruited as trial participants so far.

You could become a patient or public contributor by:

- Giving your opinions and ideas on the research we do
- Reading and editing documents
- Supporting our understanding and insight into the patient perspective
- Signposting new members to the group

Being involved in this way helps us to make sure the research we do is relevant to patients, carers and the wider public. The input of members of the public also helps us to communicate better with people who are non-specialists, but who would benefit from hearing about our work. We are able to reimburse you for your time spent working with us.

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.

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

Fast Fact: What is a control group?

A **control group** is a comparison group used in some types of research study. It allows researchers to compare the effects of a particular treatment with something else. Sometimes the control group includes people receiving another real treatment; other times it may be a fake (or dummy) treatment known as a *placebo*. VenUS 6 compares several types of compression therapy for venous leg ulcers (compression wraps and two layers of bandages), with the main comparison (control) being with evidence-based compression in the form of four layers of bandages or two layers of hosiery.

VenUS 6 progress

So far, **42** 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 September 2021, **85** patients with venous leg ulcers have volunteered to participate in the trial across 13 sites.



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.

We are grateful for the participation of all patients and staff helping to make this important study happen.

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

Dr Ross Atkinson

Email: ross.atkinson@manchester.ac.uk

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