

A message from the Chief Investigator

EPOCH is now in full swing with 31 hospitals in 5 clusters implementing the quality improvement (QI) programme. We are all excited by the progress and very impressed by the collaborative effort that is shaping this exciting project. Many thanks for all your hard work.

Please remember that it is vital to the success of the trial that you log all eligible patients with the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA) even if you have not yet launched the quality improvement. We need to include every patient we can to maintain statistical power.

Rupert Pearce



NELA and EPOCH

A robust system for collecting and entering NELA data is vital for the success of EPOCH. Not only does the

study require this data but your QI work also needs good data to support it.

It is no surprise that those sites with dedicated research nurse / data collection staff are finding good data capture much easier. We strongly recommend that any site that has yet to do so, whether activated or not, should seek support for NELA data collection and input. This includes: accessing local research/NHS audit teams support, accessing the available CRN funding (see next article) and leveraging support through your executive team to ensure NELA and EPOCH are a success at your site.

Please contact the NELA Helpdesk if you are having any difficulties accessing the NELA data portal.

Please contact us if you are having difficulties with obtaining support for data capture – we may have some bright ideas for you or can link you up with colleagues who can help.

NHS Service support costs

EPOCH is a portfolio-adopted study, and as such it is eligible for Clinical Research Network (CRN) support. The lead CRN has agreed appropriate support for non-consenting sites. This approved support is equivalent to a 0.2 WTE Band 6 nurse for the 85-week period of the trial. Please liaise with your R&D department to access this support. Many will also be able to

access Research Capacity Funding which may also be a source of help.

If you are one of the eight consenting EPOCH sites who are collecting extra data for the Health Economic sub-study, the approved support is equivalent to 1.0WTE Band 6 nurse for the 85-week period of the trial.

Each region has its own CRN, with appointed speciality leads who can help if you are having any difficulties. For more information about portfolio adopted studies and the support available locally, please visit: <http://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/>

Each EPOCH site is also entitled to a one-off research payment of £3737 from the EPOCH grant to support NELA data collection. Your R&D will have a copy of the site agreement which will enable you to access these funds. Your site is free to use these funds to support EPOCH activity (NELA / EPOCH data collection, meetings etc.) as required. Details on where these invoices should be sent is on the site agreement itself.

EPOCH CONTACTS

Trial Queries

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Quality Improvement Queries

qi@epochtrial.org

0203 594 0352

Trial management changes

Our trial manager Kirsty Everingham, who many of you know from her tireless work in the set-up of EPOCH, will be bidding us farewell in the autumn. Ann Thomson, who has been working on the trial with Kirsty since April, will now be the main point

of contact. We're sure you will join us in wishing Kirsty all the best in the southern hemisphere!

Follow us on Twitter

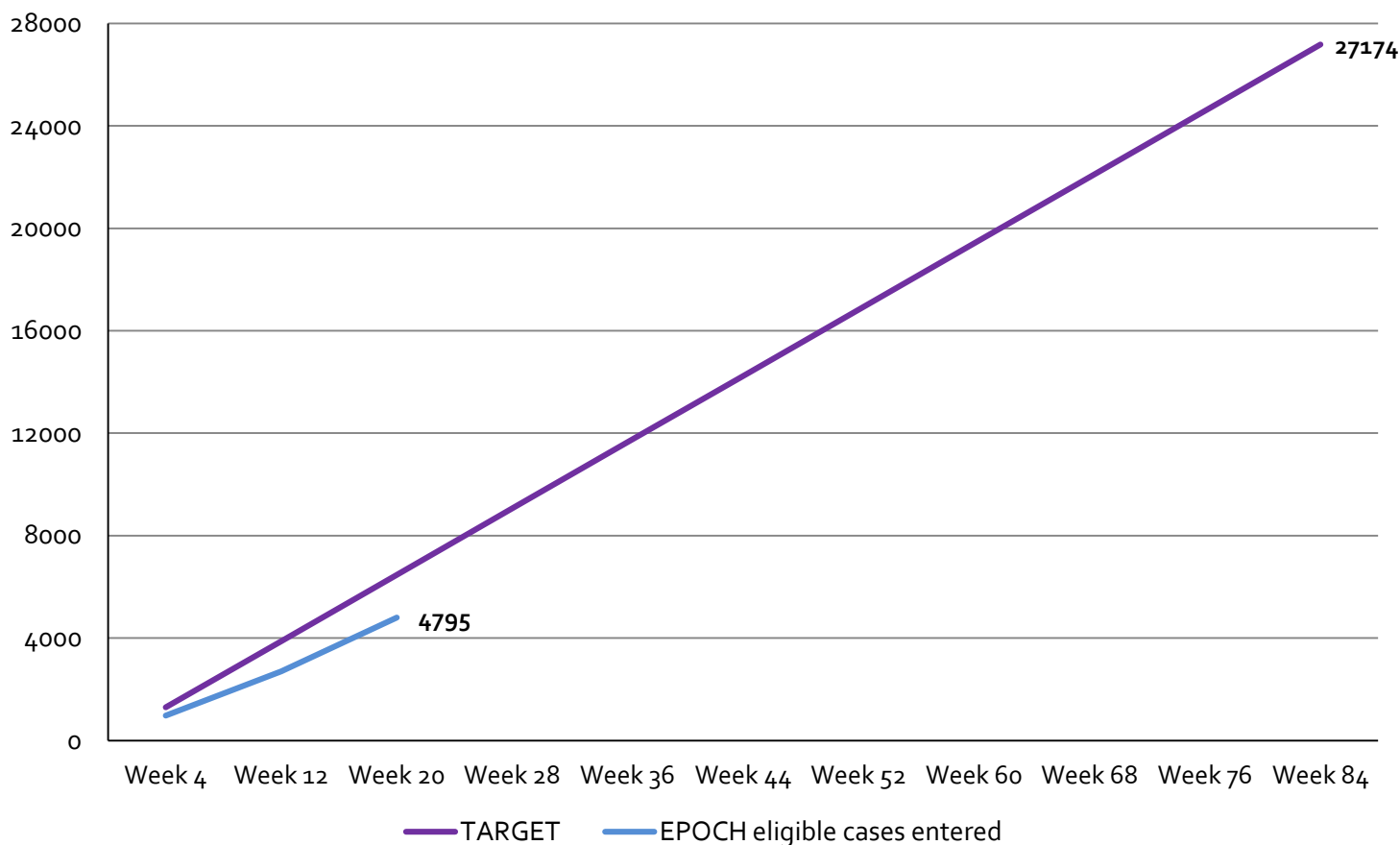


Don't forget to follow us (and tweet about your EPOCH activities!) on Twitter [@epochtrial](https://twitter.com/epochtrial)

New on the EPOCH website

The EPOCH website has plenty of useful resources and information. We've recently updated the Protocol (V2.0) and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on our website. Please visit: www.epochtrial.org

EPOCH Recruitment Progress



The graph above shows the entry of EPOCH-eligible cases into NELA from all participating hospitals.

4795 EPOCH eligible patients is an excellent performance. Thank you to everyone to their hard work so far! However, whilst we are well on our way with recruitment, we are still 25% behind our recruitment target and we believe that a number of

eligible patients may not yet be logged with NELA.

We plan to send out regular updates of this progress and hope to see the two lines of the graph converge very soon. We will soon be in touch with the teams at some sites to discuss additional help we can offer. As mentioned above, help and support is available from a variety of sources.

You can also visit:

<http://www.nela.org.uk> for FAQs, NELA inclusion criteria and technical support.

FUNDING AND REGISTRATION

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