Newsletter 39, September 2025

Welcome to Newsletter 39 for the C*STEROID Trial

Can we safely reduce the risk of breathing problems for newborn babies by giving corticosteroid injections to their mothers before a planned caesarean section?

RECRUITMENT UPDATE

We had a productive month of recruitment, particularly with the Trans-Tasman Challenge taking place in August.

This month, we welcomed a total of 47 new babies, bringing our cumulative total to 1,570. We now have less than 1,000 babies to go to reach our recruitment goal!

Thank you all for your continuous efforts and hard work. Let's keep the ball rolling!





TRANS-TASMAN CHALLENGE RESULTS

The final results are in from the August Trans-Tasman Recruitment Challenge! 🧄 It was a close match between the two countries until the end.



AU Total

21

Well done to all those who made extra efforts to get their recruits in and for organising promotional events at your local sites.

THE WINNERS:



Congratulations Team New Zealand!

You are the winning country with a total of 26 recruits.

Top NZ recruiting site: National Women's Health (11 recruits)

Top AU recruiting site: Sunshine Hospital (6 recruits)

Monthly target champions (who met their targets in August):

- Waitemata
- Barwon Health
- Northern Hospital
- John Hunter Hospital

We will be in touch for your prizes!







NZ Total

26





TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

IS THIS A PROTOCOL DEVIATION?

Let's consider a scenario where a participant was randomised on Friday, August 1, and was scheduled to receive the first dose of the study drug on Monday, August 4. However, the participant unexpectedly went into labour over the weekend and delivered before receiving any study drug.

Is this a protocol deviation? The answer is NO; it is not considered a protocol deviation, as the participant went into labour prior to the administration of the study drug.

Conversely, if the first or second dose was not administered despite the participant remaining pregnant, such as if the participant changed their mind after randomisation and declined to attend the first or second visit, this would indeed constitute a protocol deviation.

To minimise such occurrences, we recommend doing the randomisation on the day of their first visit whenever feasible.



CLINICIAN OF THE

Congratulations to Dr Sarah Malone for being our C*STAR of the month!

Sarah is a consultant for the Maternal Fetal Medicine Team at The Royal Women's Hospital (VIC). This is what she shared with us:

"I am supporting the study as it aims to answer an important clinical question. This information will help patients of the future make informed decisions for themselves and their babies. Supporting these studies is an important part of my work and being part of closing this knowledge gap is exciting in itself."

Do you have a C*STAR (clinician) at your local site that you'd like to acknowledge?

Please get in touch with us at: trials.admin@auckland.ac.nz



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MONTHLY RECRUITMENT LEADERBOARD

Ranking	Start date	Site	Monthly Target	Total (babies)	Last month
1	Oct 2020	National Women's Health, Auckland	14	515	11
2	Feb 2023	Sunshine/Bacchus Marsh (vic)	9	123	6
3	Feb 2021	Christchurch	10	255	5
4	Oct 2023	Waitematā (Auckland)	2	47	5
5	Apr 2023	Royal Women's Melbourne (VIC)	5	56	4
6	Jan 2025	Barwon Health (VIC)	4	25	4
7	Nov 2020	Waikato	4	152	3
8	Jun 2023	Northern Hospital (VIC)	1	10	3
9	Oct 2021	Wellington	3	56	2
10	Jun 2023	Monash Health (VIC)	5	61	1
11	Apr 2023	Mercy Hospital for Women (VIC)	2	38	1
12	Jun 2024	Campbelltown Hospital (NSW)	2	18	1
13	Mar 2024	John Hunter Hospital (NSW)	1	4	
14	Jun 2022	Middlemore (Auckland)	3	36	0
15	Apr 2023	Royal Hospital for Women (NSW)	4	34	0
16	Mar 2021	Tauranga	-	28	0





MONTHLY RECRUITMENT LEADERBOARD

17	Apr 2023	St George (NSW)	2	26	0
18	Jun 2023	Ballarat Base Hospital Grampians Health (VIC)	3	22	0
19	Jul 2023	Ipswich Hospital (QLD)	3	20	0
20	Jun 2023	Women's and Children's Hospital Adelaide (SA)	3	18	0
21	Jun 2023	Royal Brisbane and Women's (QLD)	3	12	0
22	Apr 2021	Northland	-	5	0
23	Mar 2025	Mater Mothers' Hospital (QLD)	1	4	0
24	Apr 2024	Fiona Stanley Hospital (WA)	1	1	0
25	Jun 2023	Townsville Hospital (QLD)	1	1	0
26	May 2025	Frances Perry House (VIC)	1	0	0
27	Jun 2023	Liverpool Hospital (NSW)	-	0	0
28	Jun 2023	Eastern Health Box Hill (VIC)	-	0	0
*	Apr 2023	Royal North Shore (NSW)	-	3	Ā



= New sites

= Moved up leaderboard \bigcirc = Met monthly site target

Congratulations National Women's Health for becoming the top of the leaderboard this month!

Also, a huge shout out to Sunshine Hospital for securing the second place with 6 recruits.

Other sites to celebrate this month:

1570

- Barwon Health
- Northern Hospital
- Wellington Hospital
- Mercy Hospital for Women

