


Lessons Learned

In the National Dental PBRN





U19-DE-22516

1

Lessons Learned with Network Membership Recruitment

- **Prioritize** practitioner meetings focused on live interactions
- **Target** academic settings: faculty & graduate students
- **Mailings** were productive in previous cycles
- **CE courses** yield survey use – gateway to studies?
- **Strategically** spaced survey studies
- **Regional experiences**
- **Retention strategies** active engagement plan? Enrollment data?


2

2

Lessons Learned with Study Recruitment

Coordinators' Perspective

- \$250 research ready remuneration – some variation in success per region
- Increased study remuneration for practitioners was influential in study participation
- Complexity of study logistics impacted practitioner recruitment
- FreSH - participant perceived stigmas impacted recruitment and compliance
- Regularly scheduled practitioner meetings are necessary for successful recruitment, retention, and engagement






3

3

Lessons Learned about Patient Recruitment

Practitioners' Perspective

- Overall patients continue to be very interested and receptive to study participation
- FreSH recruitment has been slightly challenging - more patients vaping and some very resistant to any quit attempt
- DIRR implants tend to come in spurts
 - An extended deadline helped recruitment
- POPS was well received by patients due to ease of contacting the dentist
 - Beneficial way for the dentist to communicate with patients
 - Positive patient feedback
- Studies aren't as office friendly as previous cycles because data entry systems are not customized to dental practice setting and workflow



4

4

Lessons Learned in Study Protocol Training

Coordinators' Perspective

- Involve practitioner, patient, coordinator stakeholders in study planning phase for feasibility and to better customize data entry processes in dental practice setting
- Study timeline accuracy: practitioner and patient recruitment efforts exceed estimates = over enrolling
- Standardized study protocol training videos
- PI interactions with NC



5

5

Lessons Learned

Practitioners' Perspective

- ClinCard challenges for practitioners
- Streamline tasks in becoming research and study ready
- Complicated study logistics – including REDCap security limitations; multiple log-ins, system timeouts
- PEC meetings frequency
- Members miss the regional meetings and feel less connected to their involved colleagues
- Disappointment in lack of annual practitioners' meetings
- “Should guide the academician PI's to develop a better practice-based approach with our studies, as they are not as office friendly as in previous cycles”

6

6

Lessons Learned from Study PI - SUDS

Successes:

- Great team
- Consumer feedback from PEC and content-specialists strengthened survey
- Effective/efficient recruitment- Node staff
- Thoughtful analysis plan fostered non-duplicative initial publications
- Creative REDcap programming

Challenges:

- Budget constraints impacted recruitment/sample size
- Sample size based on previous study rates

Moving forward:

- Smaller initial sample size if navigating capped participant count
- Option to recruit in additional waves prn



7

7

Lessons Learned from Study PI - FreSH

Successes:

- High practice enrollment
- Streamlined consent/enrollment process via iPad
- Study team proficient in tracking data

Challenges:

- Non-English participants enrolled
- Underperforming sites contributing to distribution logistics

Moving forward:

- Caution against stratified randomization
- Allow for a range of enrollment across different sites
- Introduce stopping rules for underperforming sites
- Add comprehension questions to surveys to exclude data from non-English speaking participants
- More time at beginning and end of study to accommodate delays



8

8

Keeping the Network in the Spotlight

IDEAS:

- More social media posts presence
 - Metrics on previous strategies – what worked, work didn't
- Social media post ideas
- Network uniformity on different platforms
- Highlighting Network practitioner in State or local dental association newsletter
- Free Institutional CE department advertising



9

9

Evaluating Y2023 Slide “Suggestions for the Future”

- Gather additional feedback from NCs (not just from the single PNC), as early as possible in the study development process
- To offer more network swag for the offices
- Staff who help with studies deserve some type of incentive
- Engage more predoctoral students, as well as dental students
- Re-visit REDCap outages and automatic error messages when the system is down



10

10

Suggestions for the Future

Practitioners would like Network to explore the following:

- Digital dentistry (e.g. use of facial scanners, denture processes etc.)
- AI in dentistry, (e.g. txt planning, caries dx., relationship to between AI in younger and older dentist populations)
- Dental AI and what insurance covers
- More studies on Implant failure (e.g. free handed v/s guided technique and unrestorable due to angle)

NCs would like Network to have NCC direct more IT resources to produce/support more efficient workflows for practitioners and NCs



11

11

Whimsy from 2023 Face to Face



12

12