

Innovation to increase trials recruitment: A smart-phone App with current, comprehensive targeted trials information

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BACKGROUND / OBJECTIVES

Poor recruitment to haematology clinical trials is partly attributed to difficulty in maintaining knowledge of current recruiting trials. The public & private hospitals of the Haematology Clinical Research Network, (HCRN) New South Wales (NSW), aimed to develop a smart-phone Application, (App) for rapid access to information of currently recruiting trials to increase patient referrals.

METHOD

Iterative development with end-user feedback of:

- A smartphone/Ipad/Tablet App that is free to download, simple to use and effective.
- With search filters of Disease, Location & Sponsor, the App has an easy to navigate listing of currently recruiting haematology trials in NSW and ACT
- The back-end database ensures currency of trial information, updated and managed at a local level by trial unit managers

Endpoints:

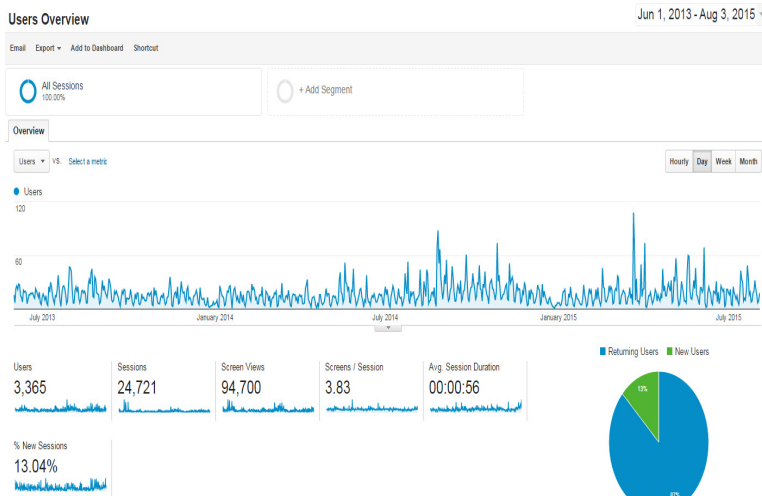
- Rates of App usage
- Trial referrals.

RESULTS

ClinTrial Refer launched on iTunes and Google Play in June 2013.

Usage metrics to August 2015:

- 3,365 users
- Over 24,721 sessions
- Each use lasts an average 56 seconds
- 87% repeat users for an average 15 sessions
- 170 users per month



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RESULTS cont ...

Cross-site referrals:

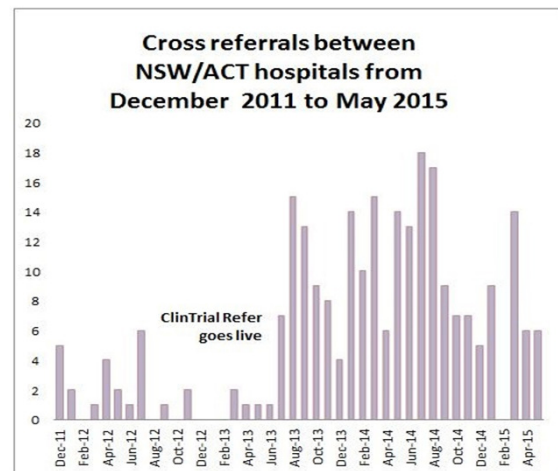
- 255 patients
- Average 6 per month (range 0-18)
- Sustained increase over previous estimates of 1.8 per month
- 33% overall increase in trial recruitment from 2012 (306 patients) to 2014 (460 patients)
- Increase in referral of patients from rural NSW and private haematologists

Staffing:

- 30% increase in trials unit staffing across NSW

Reproducibility:

- The App is a template and has been replicated for nine other Australasian cancer trial networks – in different regions and disciplines



CONCLUSIONS

- ClinTrial Refer is a simple mobile App in the pockets of clinician researchers, trials staff and patients
- The App has increased haematologist's knowledge of the local trial portfolio and has facilitated considerable cross-site collaboration
- There has been increased viability of trial units across the state, and a
- Marked increase in patient access to clinical trials

