Dear Potential Participant

Many thanks for your interest in the STIMULATE-ICP (Symptoms, Trajectory, Inequalities and Management: Understanding Long-COVID to Address and Transform Existing Integrated Care Pathways) study.

As part of the overall study, a clinical trial coordinated by Lancashire Clinical Trials Unit (based at the University of Central Lancashire) will aim to recruit over 4,500 people with long-COVID: starting with six sites in Hull, Derby, Leicester, Liverpool, London and Exeter. As well as evaluating current care, the study will include an evaluation of a community-based, comprehensive MRI scan (using Coverscan™ developed by Perspectum) and enhanced rehabilitation (Living with COVID Recovery™ developed by Living With). This will inform a new Integrated Care Pathway for people with long-COVID.

Within this trial, patients will also have the opportunity to take part in a drug study. We hope to test three different drugs, but, as new evidence emerges, different drugs are constantly being brought forward which we might like to include. Whilst this has, and will, impact our timeline, we need to ensure we are using the most promising drugs.

We will measure the effects of three months of treatment (across the different Integrated Care Pathway options) on symptoms, mental health, return to work, and other important outcomes; and at six months we will measure if any benefits have been sustained.

To enable us to truly assess the impact of the different elements of the Integrated Care Pathway, we need all patients to start from the same point in their treatment. We will only be recruiting patients as they are attending their first clinic visit and who are therefore at the start of the Integrated Care Pathway. We understand that this may be disappointing to some of you, but be assured this is the best way to answer the question, not only in the shortest time, but also to benefit all long-COVID patients.

We are working hard to resolve the drug choice issues and are aiming to start recruitment as soon as possible, hopefully in mid-December 2021. Please check the study website for updates: https://www.stimulate-icp.org/

Yours sincerely

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On behalf of the STIMULATE-ICP team