«to be printed on local hospital headed paper»

A study to determine the clinical and cost-effectiveness of Mucoactives in patients with Acute Respiratory failure: Carbocisteine and Hypertonic saline - The MARCH Trial

«insert date»
«insert GP name»
«insert surgery name»
«insert surgery address»

Dear Dr *«insert»*,

Re: **Patient Name & DOB:** *«insert»*
Address: *«insert»*
«insert»
«insert»

Your patient or their Personal Legal Representative or Professional Legal Representative has given consent to participate in the MARCH study. This study will investigate the clinical and cost-effectiveness of mucoactives (carbocisteine and hypertonic saline) in patients with Acute Respiratory Failure (ARF). Your patient was admitted to ICU during the MARCH study recruitment period, and required treatment to manage airway secretion clearance. Your patient was randomised to one of four treatment groups as outlined below and in the attached Patient Information Sheet. Treatment as part of the MARCH study is only administered during your patient's stay in ICU for up to 28 days (or up to 29 or 30 days if their breathing tube was removed on Day 27 or Day 28 respectively).

Group 1: Usual airway clearance management (including suctioning, heated humidification, and respiratory physiotherapy) plus carbocisteine (750 mg, three times daily)
Group 2: Usual airway clearance management plus hypertonic saline (4 ml of 6 or 7% concentration, four times daily)
Group 3: Usual airway clearance management plus both carbocisteine (750 mg, three times daily) and hypertonic saline (4 ml of 6 or 7% concentration, four times daily)
Group 4: Usual airway clearance management. No mucoactive medication.

The Northern Ireland Clinical Trials Unit (NICTU) is responsible for managing this study.

As part of their participation in the MARCH study, your patient or their legal representative has given written consent to being followed up after hospital discharge to collect information on mortality and significant medical events. Your patient or their legal representative has given written consent for the study team to contact you as their GP, to use NHS databases and to contact them directly to ascertain their health status. To minimise any distress to your patient or their family, NICTU would like to contact your surgery to confirm your patient's medical status prior to contacting them.

Your patient will be followed up in the MARCH trial for 6 months.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Patient Information Sheet (Consent to Continue Participant Information Sheet and Consent form) for the MARCH study.

Should you require any further information about the study, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email/telephone details listed below.

Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Yours sincerely,

«insert PI name»

Contact Details:
«insert PI address»
«insert PI email»
«insert PI telephone»