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Dear Care Home Manager,

The PRINCIPLE Trial is the only truly national trial of treatments for COVID-19 in the community and is endorsed by the Chief Medical Officers of the four UK nations.

As you are aware, COVID-19 can be more severe in older people and people with underlying health conditions, and consequently has particularly affected people in nursing and care homes. We urgently need nursing and care homes to support the study and help us identify medicines that improve recovery and prevent hospitalisation in people with COVID-19.

Anyone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 who are aged 50 and over and have a comorbidity, or who are aged 65 and over, with or without comorbidity is eligible. To contribute to the study as a care home you simply need to help us identify residents with symptoms of COVID-19. Residents or a study partner they identify (friend, family member or care home staff member for example) can then answer a few screening questions on the web platform (<https://secure.phc.ox.ac.uk/carehome>). Alternatively, if you notify the trial team, we will call and collect this information over the phone.

Participants will either receive usual care, or usual care and a study drug which will be delivered from their GP, or directly from the research team. All study drugs are already widely used in the NHS and have been approved as safe for use in this study. The study will use a computer programme to decide by chance whether they get the drug or not.

We would like to reassure you that there are measures in place to ensure patient safety and to minimise the burden of taking part on both the patient and care home:

- The patient's GP or the trial clinical team will confirm that there are no medical reasons why they should not take part. *The care home itself is not responsible for confirming that the resident can take part in the trial.*
- All recruitment and follow-up procedures can be conducted online or by our trial team over the phone. *Face to face visits and therefore access to the care home is not required.*
- A study partner, such as a care home employee or family member, can be nominated to assist the resident with providing information to the trial team.
- The trial team will telephone residents/study partners twice during the first week and at week 2 and 4, to ask a few simple questions about symptoms and to identify any concerns.

Care homes are reimbursed for identifying participants (£90 per resident randomised) and once eligibility is confirmed, any treatment and study materials will be sent by couriers directly to the resident by the trial team. PRINCIPLE has been specifically designed to be a very 'low-burden' study, as we understand the strains that care homes have been under due to COVID-19. You do not need previous research experience, and the study team will be available to provide support and answer any questions.

Please find attached a template 'Participant Identification Centre' agreement and copies of our advertising material which we would be grateful if you would consider displaying on your website and/or in your care home. If you would like physical copies please do not hesitate to contact us.

Ensuring affected people are given the opportunity to contribute to PRINCIPLE is a great service that we can offer care home residents, and helping in this critically important research could be seen as a mark of quality care.



NUFFIELD DEPARTMENT OF  
**PRIMARY CARE**  
HEALTH SCIENCES



Please let us know if we can count on your support in identifying eligible patients and helping with recruitment to the trial. If so, we would like to recognise your care home as a “**Patient Identification Centre**” on our website and materials. If you have any questions at all, please don’t hesitate to contact the team: [principle@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:principle@phc.ox.ac.uk), 0800 138 0880.

Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Butler'.

Professor Chris Butler