



GP name and address:

A randomised controlled trial to investigate the effectiveness of Thoracic epidural and Paravertebral blockade In reducing Chronic post-thoracotomy pain: 2 – (**TOPIC 2**)

RE: Patient name:                      DOB:                      NHS number:

Dear,

Our Trust is participating in a research trial comparing 2 anaesthetic techniques in patients undergoing a Thoracotomy. The TOPIC 2 trial is comparing Thoracic epidural with Paravertebral blockade to reduce the incidence of chronic pain. The trial has been granted ethical approval by South East Scotland REC 01 Rec reference 18/SS/0131.

Your patient is eligible for inclusion into the trial and has been approached with the trial information. He / She has had the opportunity to discuss the trial with the research team and has provided written informed consent.

Your patient will be asked to complete trial related questionnaires at specific time points. These will include; pre-operatively, in hospital and following hospital discharge at 3, 6 and 12 months.

To provide robust follow up, we may contact you/ your surgery to ascertain any changes in the patient's circumstances prior to their follow up.

If you have any concerns, questions or like any further information regarding the research, please get in touch with the University of Birmingham trials unit who are co-ordinators for this project. We can be contacted on 0121 415 9134 or email [TOPIC2@trials.bham.ac.uk](mailto:TOPIC2@trials.bham.ac.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Professor Fang Gao

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