

The HERO

newsletter

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

TOTAL RECRUITMENT: 28 PATIENTS

TOTAL ACTIVE SITES: 11

Amendments to the HERO trial protocol were intended to increase the population pool and thus, facilitate improved recruitment rates. Unfortunately, we are still well behind our recruitment target; we need 8 new participants every month to complete recruitment to the trial by August 2012. However, on average, **we are recruiting one participant per month.**

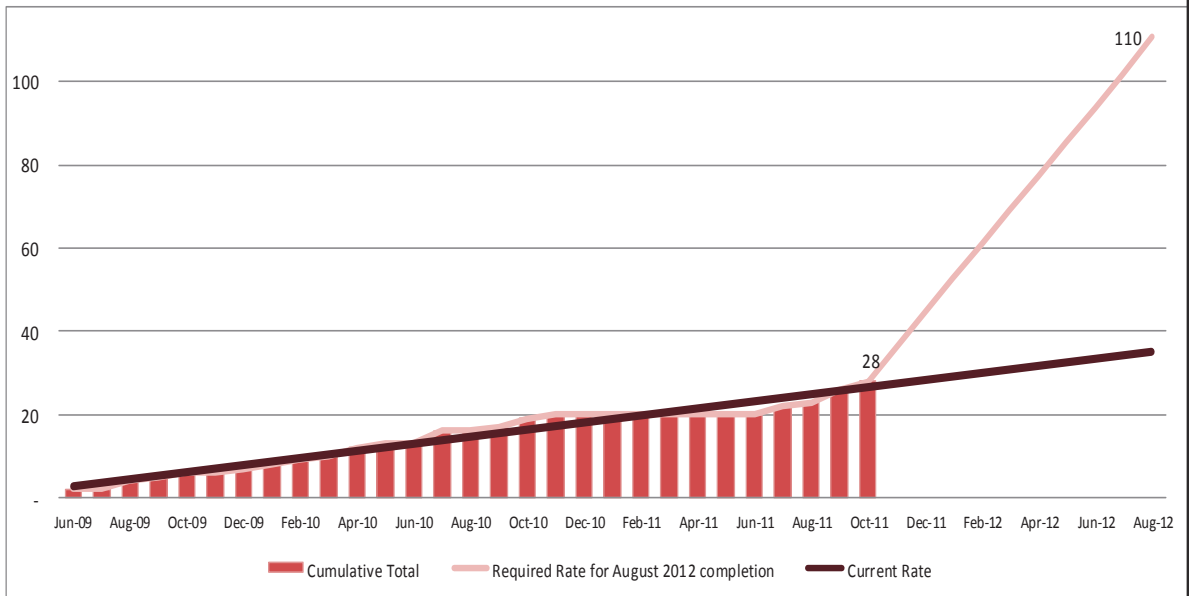
HERO pays relatively well compared to other investigator-initiated trials. For participation in this trial, sites are given a per participant capitation of \$1500. In addition to this payment, the AKTN are in the process of establishing a *new payment for screen fails*. Sites will be paid \$180 plus GST for each screen fail with a cap of two screen fails for each participant recruited from 1 October 2011.

In order to be eligible to receive this payment, Study Coordinators are required to submit completed screening logs quarterly. Reminders will be sent out when the screening logs are due. At the end of December, sites will be asked to email their screening logs to the HERO CRA Kate Harlen.

**HERO cannot be successful without participants.** Some sites have not recruited any participants and many have only recruited a fraction of their target. **With less than a year left to recruit,** we need all sites to work hard to achieve their recruitment goals.

*A word folate...*

When the HERO protocol was developed, standard practice was to measure the 'red cell folate'. Recently, many pathology labs have been measuring the 'serum folate' instead of the 'red cell folate'. This is perfectly acceptable. InForm will advise you that your patient does not meet this eligibility criteria as the ranges are quite different for these folate measurements. If this situation arises, please contact Kate Harlen and advise the patient serum folate levels and also the normal ranges listed in the Laboratory Reference Ranges document for your site. If the serum folate level is within this range, then the patient is eligible.



**Figure 1. HERO recruitment.** Based on the current rate, we are expected to have ~35 participants by August 2012. In order to meet our recruitment target, we need to be recruiting 8 participants per month. 28 participants have been recruited into the HERO trial so far.

*Thank you* to the sites who are continuing to screen patients. Your hard work is appreciated.

**Contact**

Need help or have any questions? Kate Harlen has recently been appointed as the Clinical Research Associate for the HERO trial.

Email **Kate Harlen** AKTN Clinical Research Associate at [k.harlen1@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.harlen1@uq.edu.au) or call 07 3176 1883.