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A Randomised Controlled Trial of High versus Ad Libitum Water Intake in Patients with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease: Rationale and Design of the DRINK Feasibility Trial

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3 **A Randomised Controlled Trial of High versus Ad Libitum Water Intake in Patients**
4 **with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease: Rationale and Design of the**
5 **DRINK Feasibility Trial**
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ABSTRACT

Introduction

Vasopressin stimulates cyst growth in Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) leading to enlarged kidneys, hypertension and renal failure. Vasopressin receptor blockade slows disease progression. Physiological suppression of vasopressin secretion through high water intake could achieve a similar effect, necessitating a definitive large-scale trial of high water intake in ADPKD. The objective of the DRINK trial is to answer the key design and feasibility questions required to deliver a successful definitive water intake trial.

Methods and Analysis

We describe the design of a single-centre, open label, prospective, randomised controlled trial. DRINK aims to enroll 50 ADPKD patients, over the age 16years with an $eGFR \geq 20 \text{ml/min/1.73m}^2$. Participants will be randomised 1:1 to high water (HW) intake based on an individualised water intake prescription, or to ad libitum (AW) water intake. The HW group will aim for a dilute urine (urine osmolality $\leq 270 \text{mOsmo/kg}$) as a surrogate marker of vasopressin suppression, and those in the AW group will target more concentrated urine. Participants will have an 8week treatment period, and will be seen at week 0, 2,4 and 8, undergoing assessments of fluid status, renal function and serum and urine osmolalities. They will receive dietary advice, and self-monitor urine specific gravity and fluid intake. The trial employs smartphone technology to permit home monitoring and remote direct data capture. The primary feasibility endpoints are recruitment rate and separation between arms in measured urinary osmolality. Key secondary assessments include acceptability, adherence, health-related quality of life, acute effects of high water intake on measured ($^{51}\text{Cr-EDTA}$) and estimated glomerular filtration rate, and ADPKD-related pain.

Ethics and Dissemination

Ethical approval was awarded by the East of England Essex Research Ethics Committee (16/EE/0026). The results of DRINK will be submitted to peer reviewed journals, and presented to patients via the PKD Charity.

Trial Registration Details: NCT02933268 and ISCRTN16794957

Strengths and Limitations

- The use of a randomised controlled feasibility trial designed to determine adherence and adequate separation between treatment arms will provide crucial data on the practical and biological feasibility of a definitive global high water trial
- Self-monitoring and recording of results using smartphone technology will aid compliance and allow remote data capture, thereby reducing the burden of trial visits on participants and facilitate recruitment and streamlining of future trials
- The effect of high water intake in ADPKD was identified as a research priority by ADPKD patients. The trial was designed and is being conducted in partnership with the PKD Charity.
- DRINK will include those with more advanced kidney disease (CKD3 and 4), representative of typical patients under hospital care
- DRINK is limited by the relatively short duration of follow-up, thus not providing data on the long-term sustainability of fluid prescription adherence.

INTRODUCTION

Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) is the commonest human inherited renal disorder affecting 12 million people worldwide¹. Kidney cyst growth throughout the life span leads to enlarged kidneys, hypertension and impaired kidney function. More than two thirds of those affected will develop kidney failure by a median age of 58 years², approximately 10 years earlier than for most other primary kidney diseases³. Interventions that slow the progression of ADPKD are urgently needed.

ADPKD is usually caused by mutations in PKD1, PKD2 or, rarely, GANAB⁴. Its pathogenesis is incompletely understood. PKD1 and PKD2 encode the polycystins PC1 and PC2 respectively. PKD1 or PKD2 mutations lead to reductions in intracellular calcium, accumulation and impaired destruction of cAMP and reduced intracellular ATP. This promotes sensitivity of collecting duct epithelial cells for the tonic effects of vasopressin⁵. Since vasopressin promotes cyst growth, it has emerged as a therapeutic target for ADPKD⁶. Recent evidence has confirmed efficacy of vasopressin receptor blockade with the V₂ receptor antagonist Tolvaptan in slowing ADPKD progression, reducing the annual increase in total kidney volume by 2.7%⁷ and slowing the rate of eGFR decline⁸. However, the utility of Tolvaptan is limited by cost and side effects, with up to 25% of patients intolerant of the drug⁷.

Vasopressin release from the posterior pituitary is driven by plasma osmolality⁹, and is readily suppressed by drinking beyond thirst. It is therefore plausible that high water intake could slow the progression of ADPKD through reduced exposure of the kidneys to vasopressin. Congruent with this hypothesis, studies in the PCK rat have shown slowing of cystic kidney disease and vasopressin suppression with high water consumption^{10,11}. In humans, Amro et al¹² showed significant reductions in copeptin concentration and urine osmolality after two weeks of solute restriction and high water intake compared in 34 patients with ADPKD. In a prospective observational study, high water intake in 13 patients with ADPKD resulted in reduced urine osmolality and increased urine volume compared to healthy controls after 7 days¹³. However, in a non-randomised prospective study of 30 ADPKD patients, high water intake resulted in a more rapid decline in eGFR and increase in TKV despite a significant reduction in urine osmolality and plasma copeptin level compared to controls¹⁴. Uncertainty therefore remains over the effectiveness and safety of high water

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3 intake in preserving kidney function in patients with ADPKD. Adequately powered
4 randomised trials are urgently needed.
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8 One other trial of high water intake is currently underway (PREVENT-ADPKD
9 ACTRN12614001216606), with the aim of recruiting 180 ADPKD patients who will be
10 randomised to high or standard water intake¹⁵. However, PREVENT-ADPKD has several
11 important limitations. First, patients with eGFR < 30 ml/min are excluded from the trial.
12 Second, the primary outcome change in height-adjusted total kidney volume (htTKV), a
13 surrogate for kidney function decline. Powered (87%) to detect a relatively large difference in
14 htTKV increase, there is a very real risk that clinically meaningful effect may exist but might
15 not be detected in a trial of this size. Third, the validity of htTKV as a surrogate for disease
16 progression is disputed.^{16 7}. PREVENT-ADPKD will therefore not determine the effect of
17 high water intake on kidney function. Finally, PREVENT-ADPKD will not assess the acute
18 effects of increased hydration in eGFR. Acute effects are of high importance in selecting the
19 most appropriate kidney function endpoint for interventional trials in CKD¹⁷. It is apparent
20 that, irrespective of the outcome of this trial, a large randomised comparison of the effect of
21 high water intake versus standard of care on kidney function will remain necessary.
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32 We report the design and set-up of a randomised feasibility trial of high versus ad libitum
33 water intake, developed to rigorously assess the feasibility of a definitive trial powered to
34 detect a difference in kidney function decline in patients with ADPKD. This trial was
35 initiated by patient members of the PKD Charity through a research proposal to the Patient
36 Led Research Hub during 2016, and has been co-designed and produced (and part funded) by
37 the PKD charity.
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45 **METHODS AND ANALYSIS**

46 **Objectives**

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48 The primary feasibility objectives are 1) recruitment rate, and 2) achievement of target urine
49 osmolality in $\geq 85\%$ of study participants in the HW group. Secondary endpoints include
50 separation in urine osmolality between trial arms, the completeness of self-monitored uSG
51 data (adherence to the self-monitoring regimen), serious adverse event rate, changes in
52 quality of life (EQ5D) scores from baseline to 8 weeks, change in pain scores between
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groups, change in measured GFR between baseline and 4 weeks, and change in eGFR between baseline and 4 weeks (Table 1).

Primary Endpoints
The number of patients eligible for, and randomised to the trial
The proportion of patients in the high water intake group achieving a urine osmolality < 270 mOsmo/kg
Secondary Endpoints
The proportion in each of the high and ad libitum water intake groups achieving their target urine osmolality (between group separation)
The proportion of participants that can self-monitor and report urine SG reliably
Acceptability and usability of the SPLASH app (qualitative questionnaires and interviews)
Incidence of serious adverse event
Change between baseline and 8wk in quality of life scores (measured using EQ-5D)
Change between baseline and 8wk pain scores (measured using Pain Questionnaire)
Change in measured GFR between baseline and 4wks (acute GFR effects in high water intake group)
Change in estimated GFR between baseline and 4 weeks (both interventional groups)
Acute GFR effects measured as the change in ⁵¹ CR-EDTA measured GFR from week 0 to week 4

Table 1: DRINK trial primary and secondary endpoints

Trial Design

This prospective, open label, randomised trial was designed to assess the feasibility of a large definitive randomised controlled trial comparing the effectiveness and safety of high water intake in patients with ADPKD to a control arm of ad libitum water intake. Participants were randomly assigned (1:1) to receive either a prescribed (high) fluid intake sufficient to achieve vasopressin suppression, or to ad libitum water intake (Figure 1). Following an 8 week treatment period where participants will undertake all the trial assessments, they will undergo a four week washout and have one final end of trial visit at week 12. The trial was first proposed by the Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Charity, and was developed through and

supported by the Cambridge Patient Led Research Hub, and run by the Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit.

Two nested substudies will be conducted: 1) Substudy A includes $^{51}\text{CR-EDTA}$ measured GFR and is designed to assess the acute effects on GFR of high water intake in the HW group. This substudy aims to enroll a minimum of 8 participants. 2) Substudy B is designed to assess the impact of a novel smartphone-based fluid intake monitoring device (termed SPLASH)¹⁸ in promoting adherence to fluid prescriptions (Figure 2). Substudy B aims to enroll at least 10 participants.

Trial population, eligibility criteria and recruitment

Patients with a confirmed diagnosis of ADPKD aged 16 years or older are eligible for enrolment in the trial (Table 2). Patients are deemed ineligible if they have advanced renal impairment (defined as an estimated GFR < 20 ml/min/1.73m²), are unable to provide informed consent, are unable or unwilling to comply with study procedures including self-monitoring of urinary specific gravity (SG), have evidence of fluid excess (defined as peripheral oedema, pulmonary oedema, heart failure, liver cirrhosis) or are receiving treatment with diuretics for such states, have concomitant renal diseases other than ADPKD, are pregnant or breastfeeding, or are receiving treatment with Tolvaptan within 4 weeks of screening.

In this single-center trial, participants will be recruited from the renal genetics and tubular disorders clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Patients from other centers are eligible for entry, but have to attend Addenbrooke's Hospital for screening, enrolment and study procedures. Patients will be reimbursed for travel and other expenses, but will not receive any other payment or incentives for trial participation.

The DRINK trial was advertised nationally on the PKD charity and RaDAR websites and presented at PKD Patient Information days. Recruitment commenced in September 2016. The trial aims to enroll up to 50 participants. The trial steering committee may recommend halting recruitment at any point after 30 patients have been enrolled if it is clear that the feasibility questions have been adequately addressed.

Inclusion criteria

Diagnosis of ADPKD (radiological and or genetic evidence of PKD1 or PKD2 mutations) Aged 16 years or older Ability to provide informed consent $eGFR \geq 20\text{ml/min/1.73m}^2$ Able to self-monitor uSG
Exclusion criteria
Fluid overload states e.g. heart failure, cirrhosis, or requirement for fluid restriction Confounding illness impacting on renal disease e.g. concomitant diabetes or glomerulonephritis Treatment with diuretics for fluid overload (those on diuretics for hypertension may participate in the trial after a run-in period of 2 weeks) Treatment with tolvaptan in the last 4 weeks Pregnancy or breastfeeding

Table 2: Eligibility Criteria

Randomisation:

Participants will be randomly assigned (1:1) to high (HW) or ad libitum (AW) water intake using a manual sealed envelope system prepared by the Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit statistician and to which the trial team will be blinded.

Although we have chosen patient level randomisation, the autosomal dominant inheritance pattern of ADPKD raises the particular challenge that multiple members of the same family or household may participate in a trial. In the context of high water intake, this may result in contamination between trial arms since fluid consumption patterns of one family member may be influenced by that of another. This is particularly relevant given that we have previously reported that up to 80% of ADPKD patients regularly discuss their condition and treatments with family members them¹⁹. The ability to draw inferences on contamination between trial arms within family clusters will be dependent on the number of related participants enrolled into the trial. Were contamination between arms apparent within family clusters, this may need to be taken into account in the randomisation strategy for a definitive trial

Intervention

Participants allocated to the high water intake (HW) arm will receive an individualised daily fluid intake prescription based on the free water clearance formula (Figure 3) and designed to achieve suppression of vasopressin.

The fluid prescription will be titrated to response against uSG (Table 3), since a uSG ≤ 1.010 correlates with vasopressin suppression and is easily assessable by urine indicator strip testing²⁰. Urine osmolality will also be measured during study visits, and fluid prescription titrated in order to achieve a urine osmolality of ≤ 270 mOsm/kg. Participants are required to self-monitor uSG twice weekly to ensure that their fluid intake is sufficient to maintain the dilution target. Remote monitoring of home uSG values will be facilitated through the use of a bespoke smartphone application (app) that allows participants to input and monitor their uSG values. Titration instructions are embedded within the app. Participants will be encouraged to preferentially consume water, but consumption of other beverages is not restricted and will contribute to calculation of the daily fluid consumption total. Participants will undergo regular dietary evaluation encouraging them to maintain moderate sodium (< 2 g/day) and protein (0.75-1 g/kg/day) intake in order to facilitate adherence to the urinary dilution target.

Urine SG	HW Group Advice	AL Group Advice
1.005	Maintain	Reduce intake by 3 cups
1.010	Maintain	Reduce intake by 2 cups
1.015	Increase intake by 2 cups	Maintain
1.020	Increase intake by 3 cups	Maintain
1.025	Increase intake by 4 cups	Maintain
1.030	Increase intake by 5 cups	Maintain

Table 3: Advice given to participants based on urine SG and treatment group

Control

Participants allocated to the ad libitum arm (AW) will not be given any fluid intake target, but will be asked to drink according to their usual practice and guided by thirst. They will also be required to monitor uSG using as for the HW group, but with a uSG target of > 1.010 (corresponding to a urine osmolality > 300 mOsm/Kg) given that, above this threshold, vasopressin is not suppressed. If the uSG is below this threshold, fluid intake is to be titrated

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3 to achieve the target (Table 3), requiring a reduction in fluid intake. Dietary advice will be as
4 for the HW group.
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7 8 *Adherence*

9 Any attempt to conduct a trial of high water intake will need to identify mechanism for, and
10 demonstrate the feasibility of, achieving and maintaining separation between trial arms
11 sufficient to realistically translate into a biologically meaningful effect. Studies of the effect
12 of high water intake advice on renal stone disease have shown the majority of patients are
13 non-adherent to fluid prescription²¹ and, in ADPKD patients¹⁹, often over-estimate daily fluid
14 intake. Several methods have been used to increase water intake in adults including
15 education and counselling, goal setting, self-monitoring or the provision of calibrated
16 containers. A recent systematic review of 16 studies showed that self-monitoring (urine
17 volume and uSG) were the most effective strategy to increase fluid intake, highlighting the
18 importance for adherence promoting methods²¹. In order to maximise the likelihood of
19 achieving separation between trial arms, the DRINK trial will employ several novel
20 approaches that include home monitoring of uSG and the use of smartphone technology for
21 both monitoring and direct feedback purposes. Given that these strategies will be combined
22 with education and counseling and regular dietary review of solute intake, failure to achieve
23 and maintain separation between arms using the DRINK trial design would cast serious doubt
24 on the feasibility of a larger trial powered to detect effects on kidney function decline.
25 Assessment of the potential for a biologically meaningful separation will be facilitated by the
26 objective analysis of measured urine osmolality and plasma copeptin concentrations.
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40 **Determinations**

41 Blood pressure will be assessed after 5 minutes rest whilst seated. Screening blood pressure
42 will be assessed using the DINAMAP CareScape monitor in routine clinic use. Blood
43 pressure measurements will be taken in triplicate, and the mean of the second and third
44 measurement reported. Brachial blood pressure will be taken in the non-dominant arm with
45 an appropriately sized cuff, according to British Hypertension Society guidance. Side room
46 urinalysis will be carried out using Siemens Multistix® GP indicator strips, read by Siemens
47 CliniTek Status⁺ auto-analyser. Urine specific gravity (uSG) will be measured as a surrogate
48 for urine osmolality by automated analysis of colorimetric change on Siemens Multistix®.
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3 Home measurement will be conducted by visual assessment of colorimetric change, read after
4 45 seconds against the manufacturer's standard reference colour chart. Urine volume and
5 measured urine osmolality will be obtained by performing two 24h urine collections at
6 baseline. Further 24h urine samples will be obtained at 2, 8 and 12 weeks. Spot urine samples
7 will be collected for urine osmolality estimation at every visit. Urine and plasma osmolality
8 is measured on the Advanced Instruments Micro-Osmometer, Model 3320 using the freezing
9 point depression method.
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16 Creatinine will be measured using the Siemens Advia 2400 autoanalyser. Screening
17 estimated GFR (eGFR) will be derived from the 4-variable MDRD GFR equation²². All
18 within-trial eGFR measurements will be calculated using the CKD-EPI equation²³. Serum
19 copeptin (a surrogate for vasopressin concentrations)²⁴ will be analysed by the department of
20 clinical chemistry at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, UK.
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24 Plasma samples will be obtained on all participants at all time points for biobanking.

25 Measured GFR will be determined by ⁵¹CR-EDTA. On the day preceding the test,
26 participants will be asked to abstain from high protein meals and excessive caffeine, and to
27 abstain from caffeine consumption after 10pm. They will be permitted a light breakfast on the
28 day of the test. An intravenous injection of 2MBq Chromium-51 EDTA was administered via
29 a 16G cannula. Venous blood (10mL) will be drawn from the contralateral arm at baseline, 2,
30 3 and 4 hours after the injection. Samples will be centrifuged for 15 minutes at 2000rpm to
31 allow plasma separation, and read using a Wizard2 2480 gamma counter (PerkinElmer). The
32 glomerular filtration rate will be derived from the area under the plasma clearance curve
33 using the slope intercept method.
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40 Health-related Quality of Life (HRQoL) will be assessed using the EQ-5D quality of life
41 questionnaire (EUROQoL), administered at baseline and 8 weeks.
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43 Secondary outcome data from the efficacy trial of tolvaptan suggests that the drug reduces
44 the frequency of acute episodic pain in ADPKD²⁵. Although the mechanism for pain relief is
45 unclear, it was partly explained by the reduced incidence of urinary tract infection, stones,
46 and cyst rupture and haemorrhage. As high water intake is associated with reduced
47 incidences of urinary stones and infections in the general population²⁶ and the increasing
48 recognition of chronic pain in the condition²⁷, we have chosen to assess pain in DRINK. This
49 will be assessed using a bespoke pain assessment tool to collect longitudinal data on the
50 nature, frequency and pattern of pain, and analgesic use (SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX
51 I). To date, no questionnaires have been validated for the assessment of pain in ADPKD. We
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3 employed two brief questionnaires, which are validated and widely used for a broad range of
4 chronic pain disorders in the general population, which are Short-form Brief Pain Inventory
5 (SF-BPI)²⁸ and McGill Pain Questionnaire (SF-MPQ-2)²⁸. The questionnaire will be
6 completed at baseline and week 8, but participants can also record any acute episodes of pain
7 at any time during the study. This will be facilitated through provision of the pain assessment
8 tool within the trial smartphone application. A separate paper will follow that describes the
9 results and feasibility of use in the DRINK-cohort.
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16 An acceptability questionnaire, adapted from that used by Torres et al⁷, will be administered
17 at the end of the trial to determine the sustainability and acceptability of long term adherence
18 to the trial fluid intake prescription. All questionnaire based assessments (EQ5D, Pain,
19 Acceptability) can be completed on paper, via email or via smartphone application. The trial
20 smartphone application has been developed in collaboration with FatFractile Ltd. The app
21 will be used to record home uSG results, capture questionnaire data as described above, allow
22 messaging and reminder functionality, and to direct participants to help and additional
23 information if required (SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX II). In order to avoid
24 contamination between trial arms, two distinct versions of the app were developed, each
25 specific to one of the trial arms. Identification of the version of the app used by participants
26 could be monitored centrally to avoid use of the incorrect version.
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34 35 *Run in period*

36 Eligible patients who are prescribed either diuretics or Tolvaptan will be allowed to enter a
37 two-week run-in period after enrolment during which these drugs will be withdrawn. At the
38 end of the run-in period, these participants will be reassessed to ensure that they still met the
39 eligibility criteria before commencing the trial. Diuretics will only be withdrawn if the
40 indication is hypertension, and which case alternative anti-hypertensives will be prescribed.
41 Alternatives that would result in acute effects on GFR will be avoided (ACE inhibitors and
42 Angiotensin Receptor Blockers).
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50 **Participant Timeline**

51 The trial design is represented graphically in Figure 1 and the schedule of events in Table 4.

52 *Screening*

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54 Patients who are potentially eligible will be invited for a screening visit. Screening will
55 include a medical history and a targeted ADPKD-related history that captures data on the
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3 timing and nature of the diagnosis, kidney size and function, and the presence of any
4 complications such as pain, haemorrhage, nephrolithiasis or infections. Comorbidities and
5 medications will be recorded. A full physical examination will be conducted that includes
6 assessment of blood pressure. Indicator strip side room urinalysis will be performed. Blood
7 analysis will include a full blood count, liver function tests, electrolytes and creatinine, and
8 paired serum and spot urine osmolalities. Participants that are deemed eligible will be
9 provided with two 24h urine collection bottles for return at the time of the baseline visit in
10 order to measure osmolality and urine volume.

11 *Baseline*

12 Eligible participants who have provided informed consent will be randomised at the time of
13 the baseline visit. A targeted physical examination to assess fluid status and vital signs will
14 be conducted. Participants will be weighed, prescribed medications noted and blood and
15 urine taken to measure electrolytes and creatinine, osmolality and urinalysis. A baseline
16 quality of life EQ5D questionnaire will be completed. Participants will be instructed on how
17 to conduct indicator strip uSG analysis, and asked to perform urinalysis twice weekly on
18 Mondays and Thursdays between 16:00 and 20:00. They will be assisted in installing the
19 DRINK trial smartphone application on their smartphone, and will be provided with a tutorial
20 on its use. This will allow input of home uSG measurements. Participants who do not own a
21 smartphone will be required to telephone, email or text uSG results to the trial team. Finally,
22 participants will be required to complete the DRINK trial pain assessment tool
23 (SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX I).

24 *Follow-up (weeks 2, 4, 8):*

25 Participants will be recalled for follow-up visits after 2, 4 and 8 weeks. During these visits, a
26 physical examination will be carried out and weight and vital signs recorded. Blood and urine
27 samples will be taken to measure electrolytes and creatinine, osmolality and urinalysis. Urine
28 for 24h urine osmolality will be collected at weeks 2 and 8 respectively. A dietary assessment
29 will be carried out at weeks 4 and 8. A pain assessment and EQ5D questionnaire will be
30 completed at the 8week visit.

31 *Washout period and final visit:*

32 After completion of the intervention period (week 8), participants will be asked to revert to
33 their pre-enrolment fluid intake. After a further 4 weeks, a final visit will be conducted (week
34 12). This will include all assessments conducted at the 8week visit, with the exception of pain
35 and quality of life questionnaires.

Time Point		Study Period					
		Recruitment	Trial visits				
			Active				Washout
		W-24**	W0	W2	W4	W8	W12
Enrolment	Screening	X					
	Informed Consent	X					
	Randomisation	X					
Intervention	High water intake						
	Ad libitum water intake						
Assessment	Medical History	X					
	Medication review	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Physical Examination	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Vital Signs (Blood pressure, pulse rate and oximetry)	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Height	X					
	Weight	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Haematology (Full blood count)	X					
	Biochemistry (Urea, Creatinine, Electrolytes, Serum Osmolality)	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Biochemistry (Liver function and bone profile)	X					
	Measured GFR*		X	X	X		
	Urine SG	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Spot Urine Osmolality	X	X	X	X	X	X
	24 hour Urine Collection (volume and osmolality)	X		X		X	X
	Home uSG monitoring***		X	X	X	X	
	SPLASH Monitoring		X	X	X	X	
	Dietary Assessment	X	X		X		X
Pain Questionnaire***		X			X		
Acceptability Questionnaire***			X			X	
EQ5D***			X			X	

Table 4: Schedule of enrolment, intervention and assessments

* ⁵¹Cr-EDTA measured GFR performed as part of a sub-study in 8 participants in the HW group

** 24 week pre study recruitment period. *** Recorded using the DRINK Smartphone App

SUBSTUDY A*Effect of high water intake on ⁵¹CR-EDTA GFR*

Determining the acute effects of high water intake on GFR is a prerequisite to the definition of renal endpoints in any future trial²². We will conduct a substudy to determine the acute effect of high water intake on ⁵¹CR-EDTA GFR, to allow a more rigorous assessment of GFR than that derived from estimation equations. Eight patients will be enrolled in this substudy, which will require a negative pregnancy test in addition to the eligibility criteria for the main trial.

Participants in substudy A will undergo ⁵¹CR-EDTA GFR measurement at baseline, week 2 and week 4 in addition to all other trial measurements.

SUBSTUDY B

SPLASH smartphone fluid intake monitoring

Substudy B was designed to evaluate the feasibility and usability of a novel smartphone based fluid intake monitoring device termed SPLASH¹⁸. This Android based app uses reusable near field communication (NFC) adhesive tags that attach to drink holders (glasses, cups or bottles). Tags are calibrated before use by measuring the drinks container volume (using a standard measuring jug) and programming the app accordingly. The app is activated by holding the phone near the NFC tag, allowing the user to select the volume consumed by identifying the corresponding fraction of the container (e.g. full, ½, ¼ etc.). Ad hoc consumption of fluids from uncalibrated drinks holders is captured using customised credit card or keyring NFC tags pre-calibrated for most drinking scenarios. The app also allows input of daily fluid intake targets and displays progress towards this. Given that the system is android-specific, android phones will be provided to substudy B participants on loan where required.

At least 10 participants will be enrolled in Substudy B. Participants in both trial arms will be eligible for Substudy B enrolment. Training in the use of the SPLASH system will be provided in person, through provision of written information, and via an online training video (<https://vimeo.com/208818645>). Participants will be allowed to use the SPLASH system freely, but will be specifically required to use this for at least 24 hours at the time of the baseline, week 2 and week 8 visits (to coincide with measured 24h urine osmolality).

At the end of Substudy B, participants will be interviewed to provide qualitative data on their experience of using the SPLASH app.

Patient and Public Involvement

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3 High water intake is an issue of great importance and was identified as a key research priority
4 by patients with ADPKD. The DRINK trial was first proposed by the PKD charity in 2015
5 and, facilitated by the Patient Led Research Hub. Patient co-investigators have remained
6 involved throughout the design and set-up, and are co-applicants on the awarded funding
7 grants for the trial. The study design was presented at several PKD charity information days,
8 and patients have provided valuable feedback on the intervention and the use smartphone
9 applications.
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16 The findings of the DRINK trial will be available to patients on the DRINK trial-specific and
17 PKD websites. They will also be presented at the PKD information days that are run
18 throughout the year by the charity.
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24 **Adverse Events and Safety**

25 Adverse events will be assessed at each study visit. Additionally, a 24h trial participant
26 helpline will be made available. Given the nature of the intervention, fluid retention,
27 worsening hypertension and hyponatraemia are adverse events of special interest.
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32 Participants will be withdrawn from the trial in the case of persistent hyponatraemia (<
33 132mmol/L on two consecutive samples), fluid retention defined by the presence of one of 1)
34 pulmonary oedema, 2) significant lower limb swelling, or 3) uncontrolled hypertension on
35 two consecutive visits despite optimal antihypertensive treatment (as judged by the
36 responsible clinician). Participants will also be withdrawn for a decline in eGFR by
37 $\geq 10\text{ml/min/1.73m}^2$ or 25% from baseline, confirmed on two consecutive samples at separate
38 time points.
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45 All adverse events will be recorded from the point of informed consent on the appropriate
46 case report forms. All serious adverse events will be assessed by the chief investigator in
47 terms of seriousness and causality and reported to the sponsor in accordance with GCP
48 guidance.
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53 **Sample size**

54 Data from a small pilot study by Armo et al showed that using a low osmolar diet and high
55 water intake, urine osmolality could be reduced from 426 ± 193 to 258 ± 147 ($p=0.01$) with a
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3 non-significant change in the control group²⁹. This is comparable to the reduction seen in the
4 TEMPO3:4 trial (472 to 264 mOsmo/Kg), where 81% receiving Tolvaptan achieved a urine
5 osmolality < 300 mOsmo/kg compared to 17% in the placebo group³⁰. In order to observe a
6 benefit of high water intake on the rate of kidney function decline, we estimate that a
7 comparable proportion of the high water intake group should achieve a urine osmolality
8 consistent with vasopressin suppression. We estimate that 28 participants would be required
9 to detect 85% of the HW intervention group reaching their target urine osmolality and 15% of
10 controls achieving a urine osmolality less than the target threshold (99% power, two sided $\alpha =$
11 0.05). Assuming a 15% dropout rate, the minimum required sample size is 30.
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18 **Statistical Analysis**

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20 Analysis of the primary and secondary outcomes of the trial will utilise the intention-to-treat
21 principle. All randomised participants will be included in the final analysis within their
22 treatment group allocation regardless of compliance, withdrawal or protocol deviations. Data
23 will be analysed as proportions/percentages, mean \pm standard deviation and with linear
24 mixed-level modelling for repeated measures (uSG, renal function and blood pressure). For
25 non-parametric data median with interquartile range (25-75th) with minimum and maximum
26 values will be reported as appropriate. We will be using a 95% CI and a significance level of
27 ≤ 0.05 . The analysis will be carried out using the STATA version 13.1 statistical software.
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30 We will perform a qualitative assessment of SPLASH looking at ease and acceptability of use
31 through participant questionnaires and face-to-face interviews. We will also collect
32 exploratory data on the validity of SPLASH as a potential fluid intake-monitoring device,
33 comparing the app-based intake volumes recorded to the coinciding urine osmolality results
34 of 24 hour collections.
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42 **Data Management and monitoring**

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44 Data collection will be performed by trained local research staff at each of the trial visits in
45 the form of case report forms. This will then be entered in to the DRINK trial database which
46 is housed in the NIHR accredited Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit and supervised by the trial
47 data manager. Data from the DRINK and SPLASH smartphone applications will be
48 transferred securely to the N3 NHS Database where it can be accessed securely via a
49 specialized administration panel by members of the research team using an encrypted
50 password.
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3 The DRINK study will undergo monitoring for regulatory compliance in accordance with the
4 GCP Guidance via the trial steering committee which independently monitors progress and
5 conduct of the trial and will also provide advice on the continuation, termination or
6 amendments to the trial protocol. DRINK is sponsored by Cambridge University Hospital
7 NHS Foundation Trust and will be subject to regular monitoring visits and audits.
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10 11 12 **Discussion**

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14 The DRINK trial will address the key feasibility issues facing future definitive high water
15 intake trials in ADPKD. Importantly, it will determine the recruitment potential especially
16 given the uptake of Tolvaptan, the optimal renal endpoint and effect size, the randomisation
17 strategy, and demonstrate whether biological feasibility which is essential to any subsequent
18 efficacy findings is achievable. Water as a disease modifying intervention could
19 revolutionise the management of ADPKD, not only providing a low cost, widely available
20 treatment option for those in developing countries, but also those with early disease for whom
21 it is essential to target cyst development early. Yet the early stage of their condition and lack
22 of renal function decline makes it difficult to justify the use of medications with potentially
23 toxic side effects as the risk-benefit ratio in this group remains largely unknown.
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31 32 **Ethics and Dissemination**

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34 Ethical approval was awarded by the East of England Essex Research Ethics Committee in
35 July 2016 (16/EE/0026). DRINK opened to recruitment in September 2016, and the last study
36 visit is anticipated to be April 2018. The primary and secondary outcomes results will be
37 published in peer-reviewed journals, this will include a separate paper on the use of
38 smartphone technology in clinical trial design and the longitudinal ADPKD pain
39 characteristics. A synopsis of the trial findings will also be made available to participants
40 and the public through the trial specific website and the PKD charity. All the DRINK data
41 will be shared through the Cambridge Data Repository.
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Contributors

TFH and TH originated the study. TFH, RED, SK, IBW, FEK and RNS designed the study. ML provided specific support with pain questionnaires. SB provided statistical expertise. All authors reviewed and approved the study protocol and manuscript

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests

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10 **Legends for figures**

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12 Figure 1: Schematic of the DRINK trial design. Participants are randomised 1:1 to the High
13 water (HW) or Ad libitum (AW) water intake groups. Each participant in the HW group is
14 given an individualised daily water prescription with urinary dilution targets consistent with
15 vasopressin suppression. The AW group has more concentrated urinary targets.
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20 Figure 2: Smartphone technology used during the DRINK study. The SPLASH app uses near
21 field communication technology to automate fluid intake monitoring (left). The DRINK app
22 will be used to record urine specific gravity results allowing remote data collection and
23 monitoring of progress (right).
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28 Figure 3: Calculation of fluid prescription using the free water clearance equation. Insensible
29 losses were arbitrarily set at 500mls as an average
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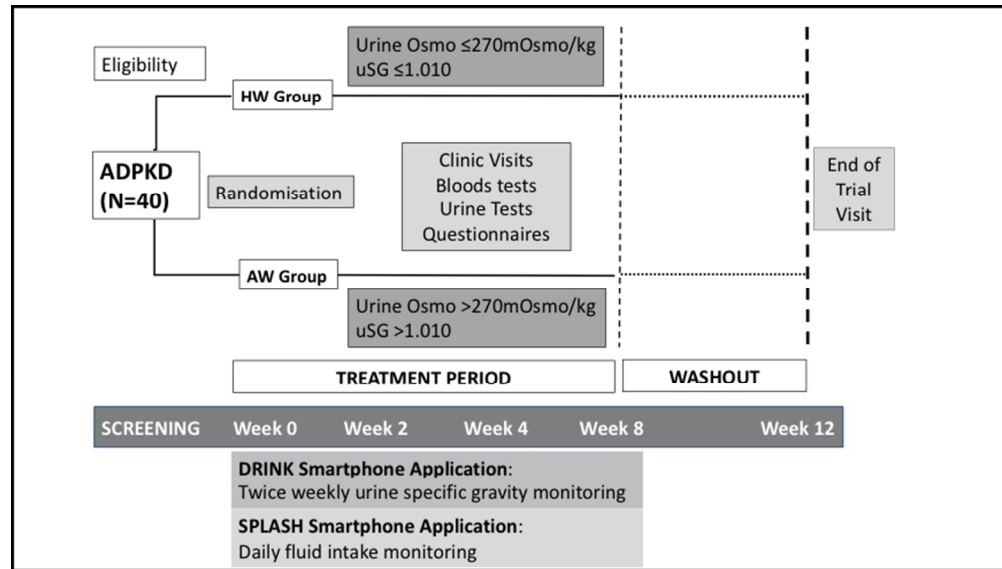


Figure 1: Schematic of the DRINK trial design. Participants are randomised 1:1 to the High water (HW) or Ad libitum (AW) water intake groups. Each participant in the HW group is given an individualised daily water prescription with urinary dilution targets consistent with vasopressin suppression. The AW group has more concentrated urinary targets.

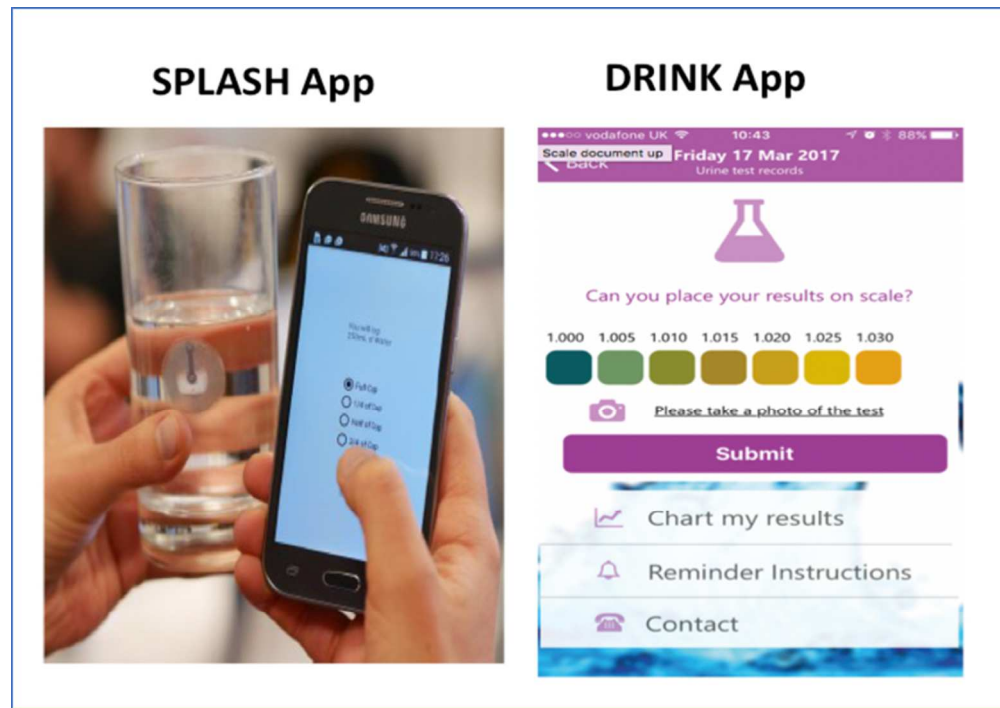


Figure 2: Smartphone technology used during the DRINK study. The SPLASH app uses near field communication technology to automate fluid intake monitoring (left). The DRINK app will be used to record urine specific gravity results allowing remote data collection and monitoring of progress (right).

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Calculation is shown for a hypothetical patient

Average of 2x 24 hours collections:
Total Solute = Urine Osmolality (mOsmo/Kg) x Urine Volume (mls)

Free Water Clearance Formula:
Fluid intake = {Total Solute (moSmo)/270} + Insensible Losses*

Example
The average 24 hour urine collection results for a participant in the HW group show the following;
Urine Osmolality 400mOsmo/Kg
Urine Volume 1500mls

Thus....
Total solute = 400 x 1500 = 600000
Fluid intake = (600000/270) + 500 = 2722 mls

**A minimum of 2722 milliliters of fluid/day is required to achieve the target urine osmolality
 $\leq 270\text{mOsmo/kg}$**

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Figure 3: Calculation of fluid prescription using the free water clearance equation. Insensible losses were arbitrarily set at 500mls as an average

Appendix I - Pain Questionnaire

BASELINE/ SCREENING +/- other visits too.

Throughout our lives, most of us have had pain from time to time (such as minor headaches, sprains, and toothaches). Have you had pain other than these everyday kinds of pain? **YES/NO**

If YES,
Body Map:

Please shade using **horizontal** lines in the areas where all your pain(s) are.

Now shade using **vertical** lines where you feel that your **kidney** problems are causing pain.

Put X on **where pain** it hurts (bothers) you the most.

For area marked X,

Please rate your pain by marking the box beside the number that best describes your pain at its **WORST** in the **last 2 weeks**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
<small>No pain</small>									<small>Pain as Bad As You Can Imagine</small>

Please rate your pain by marking the box beside the number that best describes your pain at its **LEAST** in the **last 2 weeks**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
<small>No pain</small>									<small>Pain as Bad As You Can Imagine</small>

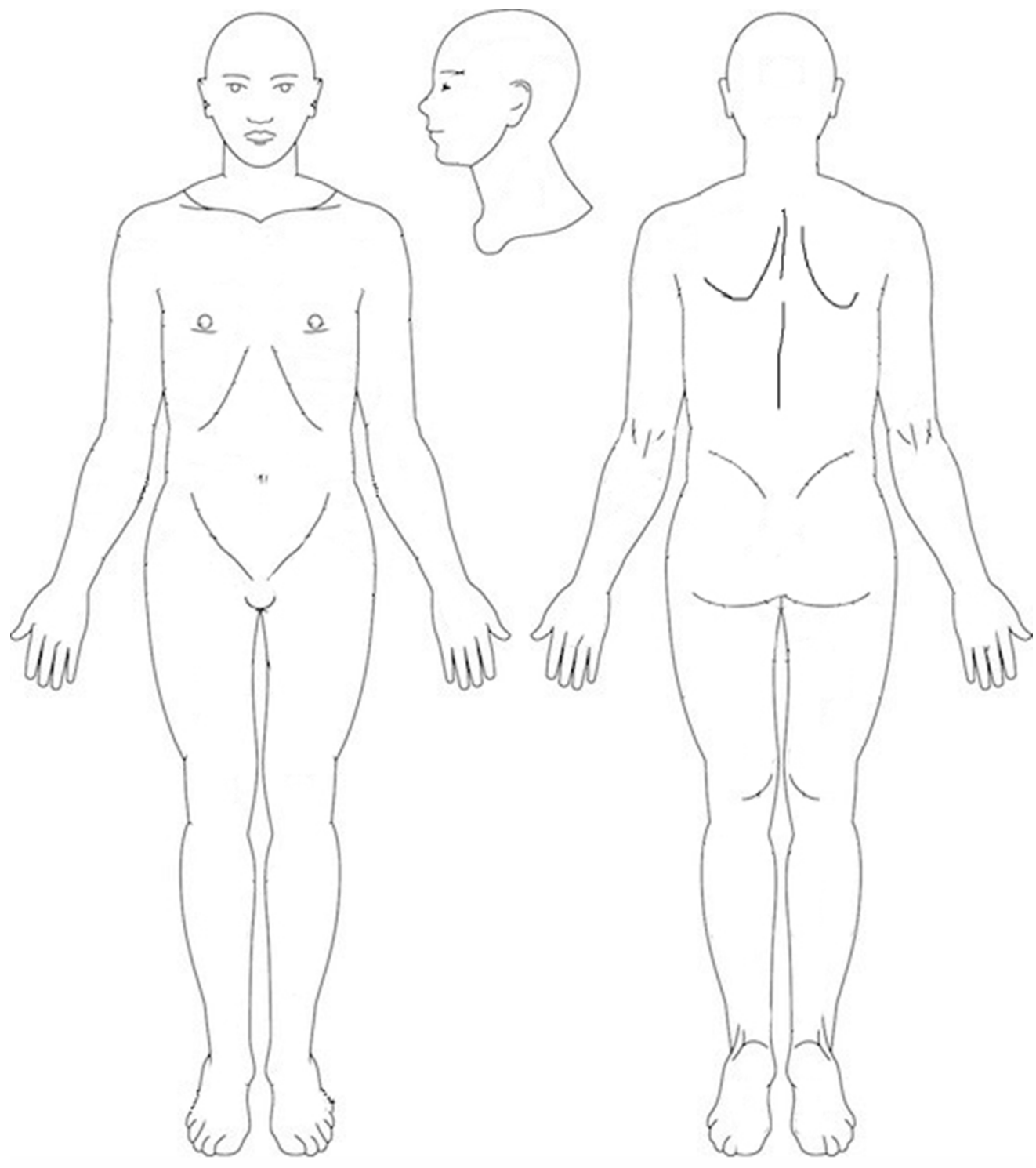
Please rate your pain by marking the box beside the number that best describes your pain **ON AVERAGE**

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<small>No pain</small>									<small>Pain as Bad As You Can Imagine</small>

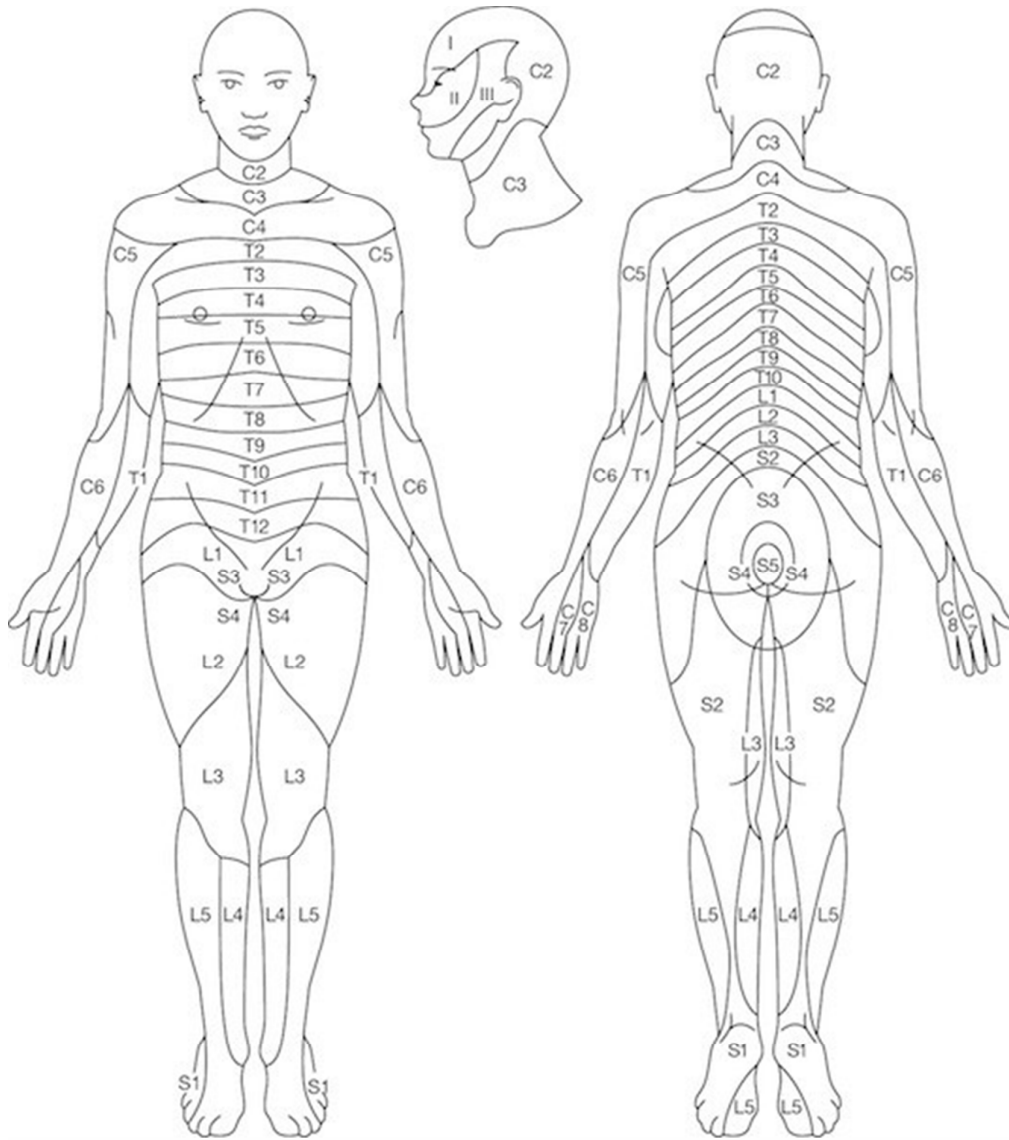
Please rate your pain by marking the box beside the number that tells us how much pain you have **RIGHT NOW**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 7	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	<input type="checkbox"/> 9	<input type="checkbox"/> 10
<small>No pain</small>									<small>Pain as Bad As You Can Imagine</small>

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BASELINE & FOLLOW-UP VISITS

McGill Pain Questionnaire:

This questionnaire provides you with a list of words that describe some of the different qualities of pain and related symptoms.

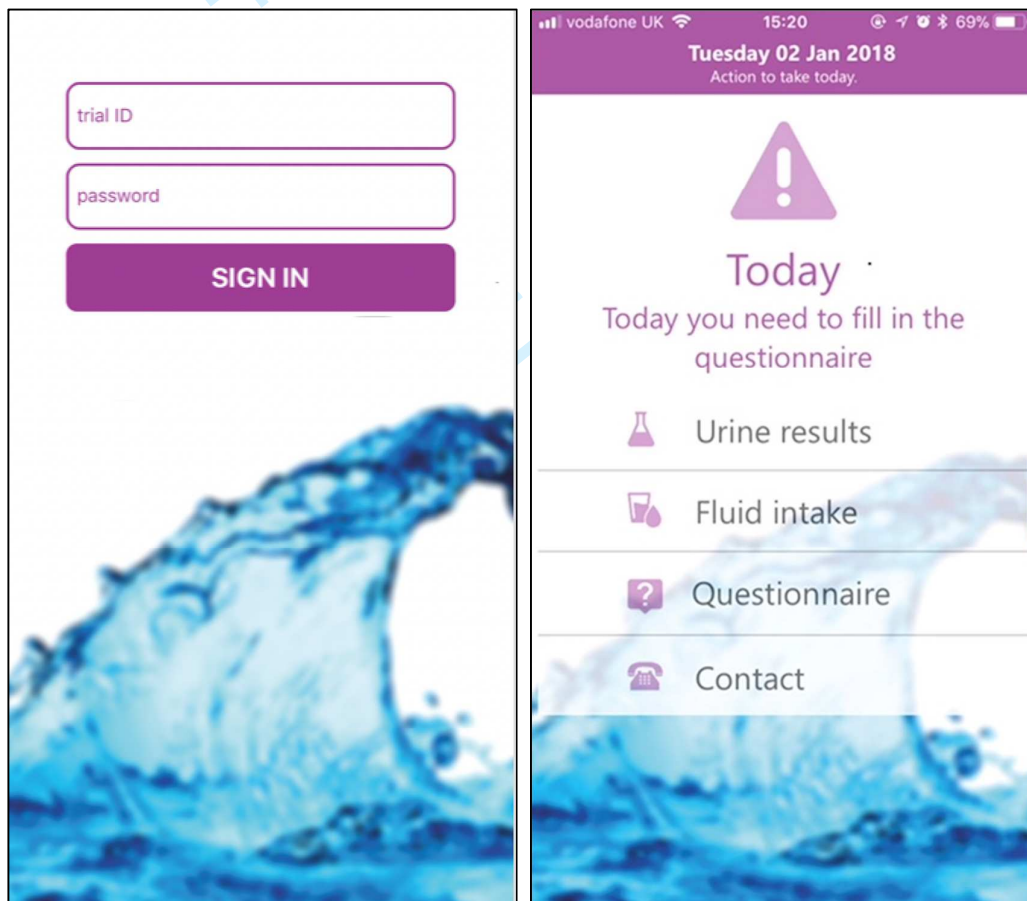
Please put an **X** through the numbers that best describe the intensity of each of the pain and related symptoms you felt during the past **TWO WEEKS**.

Use **0** if the word does not describe your pain or related symptoms

1. Throbbing pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
2. Shooting pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
3. Stabbing pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
4. Sharp pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
5. Cramping pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
6. Gnawing pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
7. Hot-burning pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
8. Aching pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
9. Heavy pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
10. Tender	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
11. Splitting pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
12. Tiring-exhausting	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
13. Sickening	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
14. Fearful	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
15. Punishing-cruel	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
16. Electric-shock pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
17. Cold-freezing pain	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
18. Piercing	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
19. Pain caused by light touch	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
20. Itching	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
21. Tingling or 'pins and needles'	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible
22. Numbness	none	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="1"/>	<input type="text" value="2"/>	<input type="text" value="3"/>	<input type="text" value="4"/>	<input type="text" value="5"/>	<input type="text" value="6"/>	<input type="text" value="7"/>	<input type="text" value="8"/>	<input type="text" value="9"/>	<input type="text" value="10"/>	worst possible

Appendix II – DRINK Smartphone Application

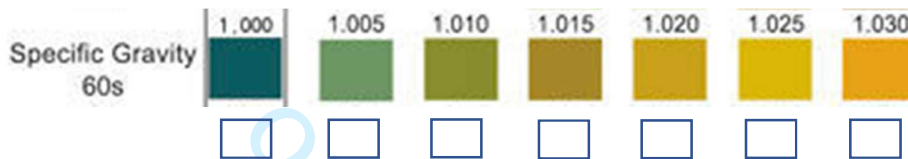
The smartphone application will be used by participants to record the results of their urine specific gravity (SG) measurement, pain and EQ 5D quality of life questionnaire and the participant acceptability question. Each participant will be given a unique trial ID number. When accessing the application for the first time, they will need to register and select a unique password. After this, each access to the application will require participants to input their unique trial ID and password. The information inputted is transferred and stored securely on the NHS N3 server. This is facilitated by FatFractile Ltd. Below is a picture of the login screen and the home screen that participants can use to navigate through the application.



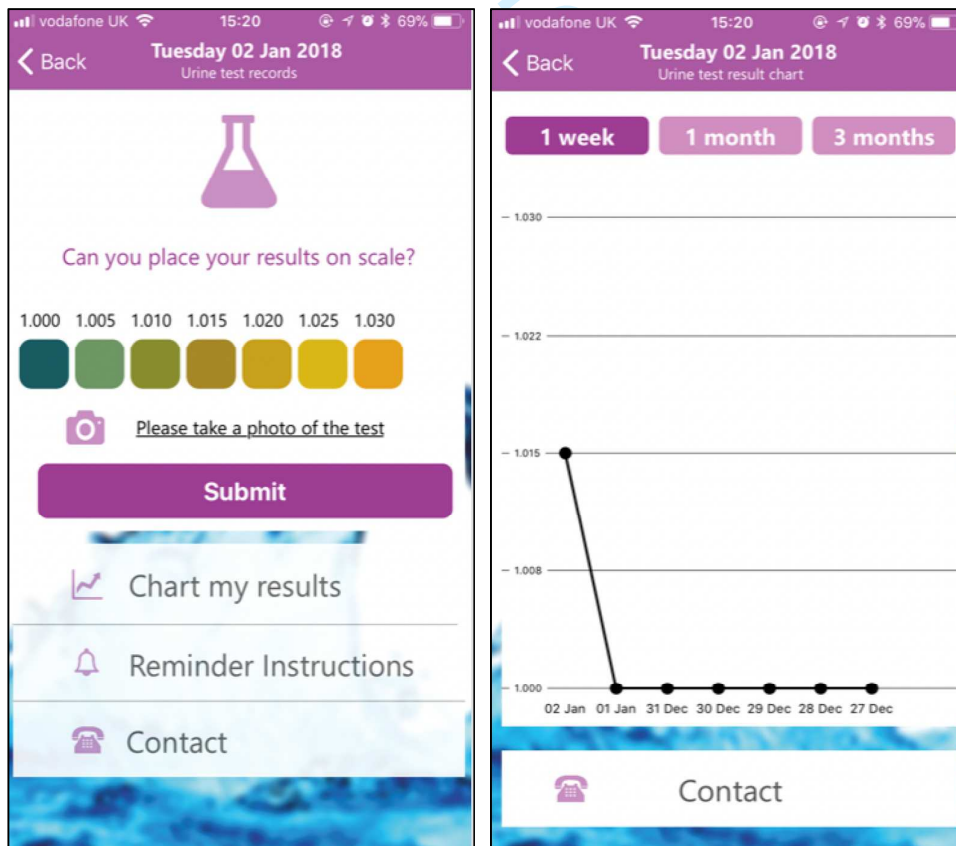
1) Home monitoring of urine SG

Every Monday and Thursday morning between 9am-12pm participants will receive a push notification from the reminding them that today a urine SG dipstick test is required and that this should be done between 4-8pm. Once they have the urine test result participants will be asked to input the urine SG result, see below.

Please select the colour that corresponds with your urine result



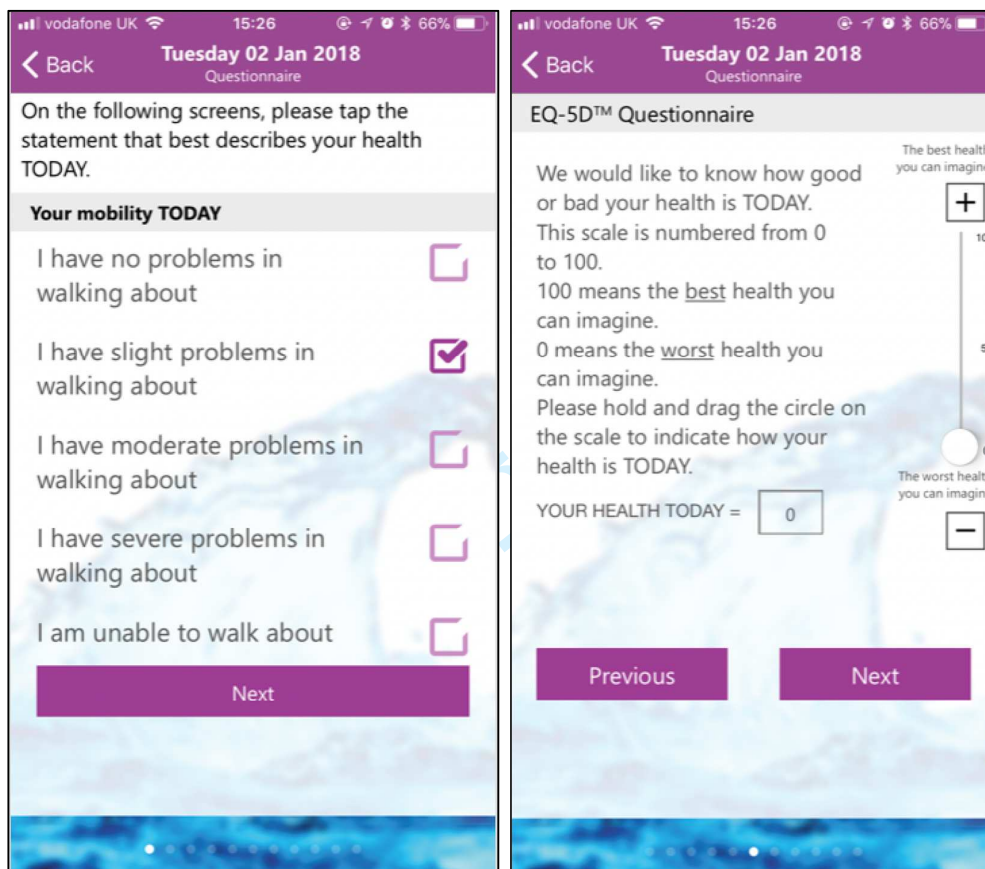
Once they make a selection this data can be transferred securely to the N3 database. A link is also available that will direct the participants to the trial specific website if they require further information or advice. Participants can also view their previous results in chart format to monitor their own progress. A picture of the urine results page as seen in the app is seen below.



2) EQ 5D Questionnaire

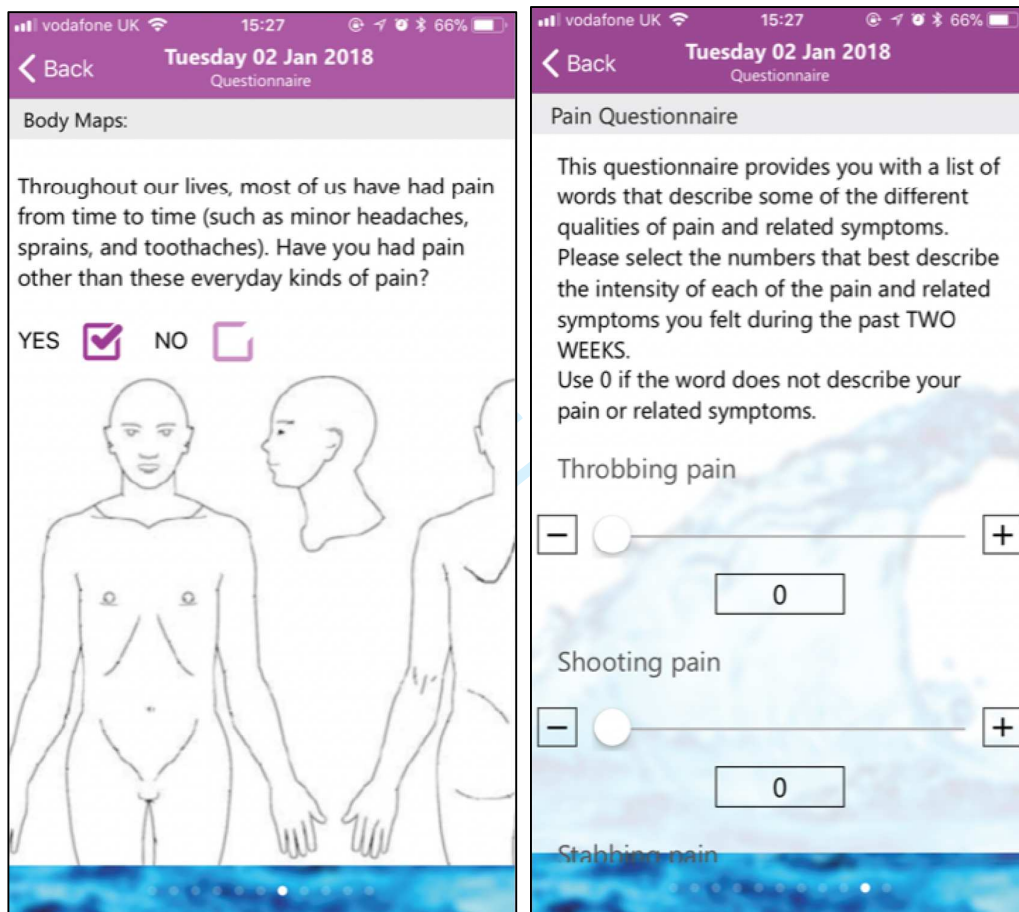
Participants will be reminded to fill out this questionnaire on the smartphone application at the screening visit and again at week 8. The results will be securely transferred to the NHS N3 server.

Examples of the questionnaire as seen in the smartphone app are demonstrated below.



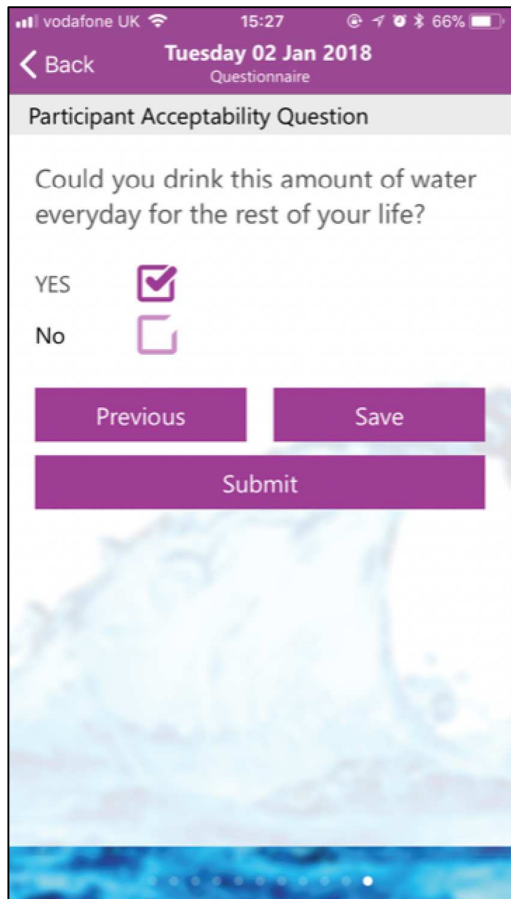
3) Pain Questionnaire

Participants will be reminded to fill out their pain questionnaire on the smartphone application at the screening and at the end of the treatment period at week 8. The data will be securely transferred to the NHS N3 database. Examples of the questionnaire from the app are demonstrated here.



4) Participant Acceptability Question

Participants will be reminded to answer the acceptability question on the smartphone application at weeks 0 and then again at week 8. An example of the question as seen in the app is shown below.



The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for a questionnaire. At the top, the status bar displays 'vodafone UK', the time '15:27', and a battery level of '66%'. Below the status bar, a purple header contains a back arrow, the date 'Tuesday 02 Jan 2018', and the word 'Questionnaire'. The main content area has a title 'Participant Acceptability Question' and the question: 'Could you drink this amount of water everyday for the rest of your life?'. There are two radio button options: 'YES' with a checked box and 'No' with an unchecked box. At the bottom, there are three purple buttons: 'Previous', 'Save', and 'Submit'. A large, light blue watermark 'review only' is overlaid diagonally across the bottom right of the image.

BMJ Open

A Randomised Controlled Trial of High versus Ad Libitum Water Intake in Patients with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease: Rationale and Design of the DRINK Feasibility Trial

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3 **A Randomised Controlled Trial of High versus Ad Libitum Water Intake in Patients**
4 **with Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease: Rationale and Design of the**
5 **DRINK Feasibility Trial**
6

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ABSTRACT

Introduction

Vasopressin stimulates cyst growth in Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) leading to enlarged kidneys, hypertension and renal failure. Vasopressin receptor blockade slows disease progression. Physiological suppression of vasopressin secretion through high water intake could achieve a similar effect, necessitating a definitive large-scale trial of high water intake in ADPKD. The objective of the DRINK trial is to answer the key design and feasibility questions required to deliver a successful definitive water intake trial.

Methods and Analysis

We describe the design of a single-centre, open label, prospective, randomised controlled trial. DRINK aims to enroll 50 ADPKD patients, over the age 16years with an $eGFR \geq 20 \text{ml/min/1.73m}^2$. Participants will be randomised 1:1 to high water (HW) intake based on an individualised water intake prescription, or to ad libitum (AW) water intake. The HW group will aim for a dilute urine (urine osmolality $\leq 270 \text{mOsmo/kg}$) as a surrogate marker of vasopressin suppression, and those in the AW group will target more concentrated urine. Participants will have an 8week treatment period, and will be seen at week 0, 2,4 and 8, undergoing assessments of fluid status, renal function and serum and urine osmolalities. They will receive dietary advice, and self-monitor urine specific gravity and fluid intake. The trial employs smartphone technology to permit home monitoring and remote direct data capture. The primary feasibility endpoints are recruitment rate and separation between arms in measured urinary osmolality. Key secondary assessments include acceptability, adherence, health-related quality of life, acute effects of high water intake on measured ($^{51}\text{Cr-EDTA}$) and estimated glomerular filtration rate, and ADPKD-related pain.

Ethics and Dissemination

Ethical approval was awarded by the East of England Essex Research Ethics Committee (16/EE/0026). The results of DRINK will be submitted to peer reviewed journals, and presented to patients via the PKD Charity.

Trial Registration Details: NCT02933268 and ISCRTN16794957

Strengths and Limitations

- The use of a randomised controlled feasibility trial designed to determine adherence and adequate separation between treatment arms will provide crucial data on the practical and biological feasibility of a definitive global high water trial
- Self-monitoring and recording of results using smartphone technology will aid compliance and allow remote data capture, thereby reducing the burden of trial visits on participants and facilitate recruitment and streamlining of future trials
- The effect of high water intake in ADPKD was identified as a research priority by ADPKD patients. The trial was designed and is being conducted in partnership with the PKD Charity.
- DRINK will include those with more advanced kidney disease (CKD3 and 4), representative of typical patients under hospital care
- DRINK is limited by the relatively short duration of follow-up, thus not providing data on the long-term sustainability of fluid prescription adherence.

INTRODUCTION

Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease (ADPKD) is the commonest human inherited renal disorder affecting 12 million people worldwide¹. Kidney cyst growth throughout the life span leads to enlarged kidneys, hypertension and impaired kidney function. More than two thirds of those affected will develop kidney failure by a median age of 58 years², approximately 10 years earlier than for most other primary kidney diseases³. Interventions that slow the progression of ADPKD are urgently needed.

ADPKD is usually caused by mutations in PKD1, PKD2 or, rarely, GANAB⁴. Its pathogenesis is incompletely understood. PKD1 and PKD2 encode the polycystins PC1 and PC2 respectively. PKD1 or PKD2 mutations lead to reductions in intracellular calcium, accumulation and impaired destruction of cAMP and reduced intracellular ATP. This promotes sensitivity of collecting duct epithelial cells for the tonic effects of vasopressin⁵. Since vasopressin promotes cyst growth, it has emerged as a therapeutic target for ADPKD⁶. Recent evidence has confirmed efficacy of vasopressin receptor blockade with the V₂ receptor antagonist Tolvaptan in slowing ADPKD progression, reducing the annual increase in total kidney volume by 2.7%⁷ and slowing the rate of eGFR decline⁸. However, the utility of Tolvaptan is limited by cost and side effects, with up to 25% of patients intolerant of the drug⁷.

Vasopressin release from the posterior pituitary is driven by plasma osmolality⁹, and is readily suppressed by drinking beyond thirst. It is therefore plausible that high water intake could slow the progression of ADPKD through reduced exposure of the kidneys to vasopressin. Congruent with this hypothesis, studies in the PCK rat have shown slowing of cystic kidney disease and vasopressin suppression with high water consumption^{10,11}. In humans, Amro et al¹² showed significant reductions in copeptin concentration and urine osmolality after two weeks of solute restriction and high water intake compared in 34 patients with ADPKD. In a prospective observational study, high water intake in 13 patients with ADPKD resulted in reduced urine osmolality and increased urine volume compared to healthy controls after 7 days¹³. However, in a non-randomised prospective study of 30 ADPKD patients, high water intake resulted in a more rapid decline in eGFR and increase in TKV despite a significant reduction in urine osmolality and plasma copeptin level compared to controls¹⁴. Uncertainty therefore remains over the effectiveness and safety of high water

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3 intake in preserving kidney function in patients with ADPKD. Adequately powered
4 randomised trials are urgently needed.
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8 One other trial of high water intake is currently underway (PREVENT-ADPKD
9 ACTRN12614001216606), with the aim of recruiting 180 ADPKD patients who will be
10 randomised to high or standard water intake¹⁵. However, PREVENT-ADPKD has several
11 important limitations. First, patients with eGFR < 30 ml/min are excluded from the trial.
12 Second, the primary outcome change in height-adjusted total kidney volume (htTKV), a
13 surrogate for kidney function decline. Powered (87%) to detect a relatively large difference in
14 htTKV increase, there is a very real risk that clinically meaningful effect may exist but might
15 not be detected in a trial of this size. Third, the validity of htTKV as a surrogate for disease
16 progression is disputed.^{16 7}. PREVENT-ADPKD will therefore not determine the effect of
17 high water intake on kidney function. Finally, PREVENT-ADPKD will not assess the acute
18 effects of increased hydration in eGFR. Acute effects are of high importance in selecting the
19 most appropriate kidney function endpoint for interventional trials in CKD¹⁷. It is apparent
20 that, irrespective of the outcome of this trial, a large randomised comparison of the effect of
21 high water intake versus standard of care on kidney function will remain necessary.
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32 We report the design and set-up of a randomised feasibility trial of high versus ad libitum
33 water intake, developed to rigorously assess the feasibility of a definitive trial powered to
34 detect a difference in kidney function decline in patients with ADPKD. This trial was
35 initiated by patient members of the PKD Charity through a research proposal to the Patient
36 Led Research Hub during 2016, and has been co-designed and produced (and part funded) by
37 the PKD charity. A full version of the trial protocol can be found at the following link
38 <http://cctu.medschl.cam.ac.uk/Trials/Drink/Materials.htm> on the DRINK trial website.
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47 **METHODS AND ANALYSIS**

48 **Objectives**

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50 The primary feasibility objectives are 1) recruitment rate, and 2) achievement of target urine
51 osmolality in $\geq 85\%$ of study participants in the HW group. Secondary endpoints include
52 separation in urine osmolality between trial arms, the completeness of self-monitored uSG
53 data (adherence to the self-monitoring regimen), serious adverse event rate, changes in
54 quality of life (EQ5D) scores from baseline to 8 weeks, change in pain scores between
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groups, change in measured GFR between baseline and 4 weeks, and change in eGFR between baseline and 4 weeks (Table 1).

Primary Endpoints
The number of patients eligible for, and randomised to the trial
The proportion of patients in the high water intake group achieving a urine osmolality < 270 mOsmo/kg
Secondary Endpoints
The proportion in each of the high and ad libitum water intake groups achieving their target urine osmolality (between group separation)
The proportion of participants that can self-monitor and report urine SG reliably
Acceptability and usability of the SPLASH app (qualitative questionnaires and interviews)
Incidence of serious adverse event
Change between baseline and 8wk in quality of life scores (measured using EQ-5D)
Change between baseline and 8wk pain scores (measured using Pain Questionnaire)
Change in measured GFR between baseline and 4wks (acute GFR effects in high water intake group)
Change in estimated GFR between baseline and 4 weeks (both interventional groups)
Acute GFR effects measured as the change in ⁵¹ CR-EDTA measured GFR from week 0 to week 4

Table 1: DRINK trial primary and secondary endpoints

Trial Design

This prospective, open label, randomised trial was designed to assess the feasibility of a large definitive randomised controlled trial comparing the effectiveness and safety of high water intake in patients with ADPKD to a control arm of ad libitum water intake. Participants were randomly assigned (1:1) to receive either a prescribed (high) fluid intake sufficient to achieve vasopressin suppression, or to ad libitum water intake (Figure 1). Following an 8 week treatment period where participants will undertake all the trial assessments, they will undergo a four week washout and have one final end of trial visit at week 12. The trial was first proposed by the Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) Charity, and was developed through and

supported by the Cambridge Patient Led Research Hub, and run by the Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit.

Two nested substudies will be conducted: 1) Substudy A includes $^{51}\text{CR-EDTA}$ measured GFR and is designed to assess the acute effects on GFR of high water intake in the HW group. This substudy aims to enroll a minimum of 8 participants. 2) Substudy B is designed to assess the impact of a novel smartphone-based fluid intake monitoring device (termed SPLASH)¹⁸ in promoting adherence to fluid prescriptions (Figure 2). Substudy B aims to enroll at least 10 participants.

Trial population, eligibility criteria and recruitment

Patients with a confirmed diagnosis of ADPKD aged 16 years or older are eligible for enrolment in the trial (Table 2). Patients are deemed ineligible if they have advanced renal impairment (defined as an estimated GFR $< 20 \text{ ml/min/1.73m}^2$), are unable to provide informed consent, are unable or unwilling to comply with study procedures including self-monitoring of urinary specific gravity (SG), have evidence of fluid excess (defined as peripheral oedema, pulmonary oedema, heart failure, liver cirrhosis) or are receiving treatment with diuretics for such states, have concomitant renal diseases other than ADPKD, are pregnant or breastfeeding, or are receiving treatment with Tolvaptan within 4 weeks of screening.

In this single-center trial, participants will be recruited from the renal genetics and tubular disorders clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. Patients from other centers are eligible for entry, but have to attend Addenbrooke's Hospital for screening, enrolment and study procedures. Patients will be reimbursed for travel and other expenses, but will not receive any other payment or incentives for trial participation.

The DRINK trial was advertised nationally on the PKD charity and RaDAR websites and presented at PKD Patient Information days. Recruitment commenced in September 2016. The trial aims to enroll up to 50 participants. The trial steering committee may recommend halting recruitment at any point after 30 patients have been enrolled if it is clear that the feasibility questions have been adequately addressed.

Inclusion criteria

Diagnosis of ADPKD (radiological and or genetic evidence of PKD1 or PKD2 mutations) Aged 16 years or older Ability to provide informed consent $eGFR \geq 20\text{ml/min/1.73m}^2$ Able to self-monitor uSG
Exclusion criteria
Fluid overload states e.g. heart failure, cirrhosis, or requirement for fluid restriction Confounding illness impacting on renal disease e.g. concomitant diabetes or glomerulonephritis Treatment with diuretics for fluid overload (those on diuretics for hypertension may participate in the trial after a run-in period of 2 weeks) Treatment with tolvaptan in the last 4 weeks Pregnancy or breastfeeding

Table 2: Eligibility Criteria

Randomisation:

Participants will be randomly assigned (1:1) to high (HW) or ad libitum (AW) water intake using a manual sealed envelope system prepared by the Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit statistician and to which the trial team will be blinded.

Although we have chosen patient level randomisation, the autosomal dominant inheritance pattern of ADPKD raises the particular challenge that multiple members of the same family or household may participate in a trial. In the context of high water intake, this may result in contamination between trial arms since fluid consumption patterns of one family member may be influenced by that of another. This is particularly relevant given that we have previously reported that up to 80% of ADPKD patients regularly discuss their condition and treatments with family members them¹⁹. The ability to draw inferences on contamination between trial arms within family clusters will be dependent on the number of related participants enrolled into the trial. Were contamination between arms apparent within family clusters, this may need to be taken into account in the randomisation strategy for a definitive trial

Intervention

Participants allocated to the high water intake (HW) arm will receive an individualised daily fluid intake prescription based on the free water clearance formula (Figure 3) and designed to achieve suppression of vasopressin.

The fluid prescription will be titrated to response against uSG (Table 3), since a uSG ≤ 1.010 correlates with vasopressin suppression and is easily assessable by urine indicator strip testing²⁰. Urine osmolality will also be measured during study visits, and fluid prescription titrated in order to achieve a urine osmolality of ≤ 270 mOsmo/kg. Participants are required to self-monitor uSG twice weekly to ensure that their fluid intake is sufficient to maintain the dilution target. Remote monitoring of home uSG values will be facilitated through the use of a bespoke smartphone application (app) that allows participants to input and monitor their uSG values. Titration instructions are embedded within the app. Participants will be encouraged to preferentially consume water, but consumption of other beverages is not restricted and will contribute to calculation of the daily fluid consumption total. Participants will undergo regular dietary evaluation encouraging them to maintain moderate sodium (< 2 g/day) and protein (0.75-1 g/kg/day) intake in order to facilitate adherence to the urinary dilution target.

Urine SG	HW Group Advice	AW Group Advice
1.005	Maintain	Reduce intake by 3 cups
1.010	Maintain	Reduce intake by 2 cups
1.015	Increase intake by 2 cups	Maintain
1.020	Increase intake by 3 cups	Maintain
1.025	Increase intake by 4 cups	Maintain
1.030	Increase intake by 5 cups	Maintain

Table 3: Advice given to participants based on urine SG and treatment group

Control

Participants allocated to the ad libitum arm (AW) will not be given any fluid intake target, but will be asked to drink according to their usual practice and guided by thirst. They will also be required to monitor uSG using as for the HW group, but with a uSG target of > 1.010 (corresponding to a urine osmolality > 300 mOsmo/Kg) given that, above this threshold, vasopressin is not suppressed. If the uSG is below this threshold, fluid intake is to be titrated

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3 to achieve the target (Table 3), requiring a reduction in fluid intake. Dietary advice will be as
4 for the HW group.
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7 8 *Adherence*

9 Any attempt to conduct a trial of high water intake will need to identify mechanism for, and
10 demonstrate the feasibility of, achieving and maintaining separation between trial arms
11 sufficient to realistically translate into a biologically meaningful effect. Studies of the effect
12 of high water intake advice on renal stone disease have shown the majority of patients are
13 non-adherent to fluid prescription²¹ and, in ADPKD patients¹⁹, often over-estimate daily fluid
14 intake. Several methods have been used to increase water intake in adults including
15 education and counselling, goal setting, self-monitoring or the provision of calibrated
16 containers. A recent systematic review of 16 studies showed that self-monitoring (urine
17 volume and uSG) were the most effective strategy to increase fluid intake, highlighting the
18 importance for adherence promoting methods²¹. In order to maximise the likelihood of
19 achieving separation between trial arms, the DRINK trial will employ several novel
20 approaches that include home monitoring of uSG and the use of smartphone technology for
21 both monitoring and direct feedback purposes. Given that these strategies will be combined
22 with education and counseling and regular dietary review of solute intake, failure to achieve
23 and maintain separation between arms using the DRINK trial design would cast serious doubt
24 on the feasibility of a larger trial powered to detect effects on kidney function decline.
25 Assessment of the potential for a biologically meaningful separation will be facilitated by the
26 objective analysis of measured urine osmolality and plasma copeptin concentrations.
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40 **Determinations**

41 Blood pressure will be assessed after 5 minutes rest whilst seated. Screening blood pressure
42 will be assessed using the DINAMAP CareScape monitor in routine clinic use. Blood
43 pressure measurements will be taken in triplicate, and the mean of the second and third
44 measurement reported. Brachial blood pressure will be taken in the non-dominant arm with
45 an appropriately sized cuff, according to British Hypertension Society guidance. Side room
46 urinalysis will be carried out using Siemens Multistix® GP indicator strips, read by Siemens
47 CliniTek Status⁺ auto-analyser. Urine specific gravity (uSG) will be measured as a surrogate
48 for urine osmolality by automated analysis of colorimetric change on Siemens Multistix®.
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3 Home measurement will be conducted by visual assessment of colorimetric change, read after
4 45 seconds against the manufacturer's standard reference colour chart. Urine volume and
5 measured urine osmolality will be obtained by performing two 24h urine collections at
6 baseline. Further 24h urine samples will be obtained at 2, 8 and 12 weeks. Spot urine samples
7 will be collected for urine osmolality estimation at every visit. Urine and plasma osmolality
8 is measured on the Advanced Instruments Micro-Osmometer, Model 3320 using the freezing
9 point depression method.
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16 Creatinine will be measured using the Siemens Advia 2400 autoanalyser. Screening
17 estimated GFR (eGFR) will be derived from the 4-variable MDRD GFR equation²². All
18 within-trial eGFR measurements will be calculated using the CKD-EPI equation²³. Serum
19 copeptin (a surrogate for vasopressin concentrations)²⁴ will be analysed by the department of
20 clinical chemistry at the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle, UK.
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24 Plasma samples will be obtained on all participants at all time points for biobanking.

25 Measured GFR will be determined by ⁵¹CR-EDTA. On the day preceding the test,
26 participants will be asked to abstain from high protein meals and excessive caffeine, and to
27 abstain from caffeine consumption after 10pm. They will be permitted a light breakfast on the
28 day of the test. An intravenous injection of 2MBq Chromium-51 EDTA was administered via
29 a 16G cannula. Venous blood (10mL) will be drawn from the contralateral arm at baseline, 2,
30 3 and 4 hours after the injection. Samples will be centrifuged for 15 minutes at 2000rpm to
31 allow plasma separation, and read using a Wizard2 2480 gamma counter (PerkinElmer). The
32 glomerular filtration rate will be derived from the area under the plasma clearance curve
33 using the slope intercept method.
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40 Health-related Quality of Life (HRQoL) will be assessed using the EQ-5D quality of life
41 questionnaire (EUROQoL), administered at baseline and 8 weeks.
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43 Secondary outcome data from the efficacy trial of tolvaptan suggests that the drug reduces
44 the frequency of acute episodic pain in ADPKD²⁵. Although the mechanism for pain relief is
45 unclear, it was partly explained by the reduced incidence of urinary tract infection, stones,
46 and cyst rupture and haemorrhage. As high water intake is associated with reduced
47 incidences of urinary stones and infections in the general population²⁶ and the increasing
48 recognition of chronic pain in the condition²⁷, we have chosen to assess pain in DRINK. This
49 will be assessed using a bespoke pain assessment tool to collect longitudinal data on the
50 nature, frequency and pattern of pain, and analgesic use (SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX
51 I). To date, no questionnaires have been validated for the assessment of pain in ADPKD. We
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3 employed two brief questionnaires, which are validated and widely used for a broad range of
4 chronic pain disorders in the general population, which are Short-form Brief Pain Inventory
5 (SF-BPI)²⁸ and McGill Pain Questionnaire (SF-MPQ-2)²⁸. The questionnaire will be
6 completed at baseline and week 8, but participants can also record any acute episodes of pain
7 at any time during the study. This will be facilitated through provision of the pain assessment
8 tool within the trial smartphone application. A separate paper will follow that describes the
9 results and feasibility of use in the DRINK-cohort.
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16 An acceptability questionnaire, adapted from that used by Torres et al⁷, will be administered
17 at the end of the trial to determine the sustainability and acceptability of long term adherence
18 to the trial fluid intake prescription. All questionnaire based assessments (EQ5D, Pain,
19 Acceptability) can be completed on paper, via email or via smartphone application. The trial
20 smartphone application has been developed in collaboration with FatFractile Ltd. The app
21 will be used to record home uSG results, capture questionnaire data as described above, allow
22 messaging and reminder functionality, and to direct participants to help and additional
23 information if required (SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX II). In order to avoid
24 contamination between trial arms, two distinct versions of the app were developed, each
25 specific to one of the trial arms. Identification of the version of the app used by participants
26 could be monitored centrally to avoid use of the incorrect version.
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34 35 *Run in period*

36 Eligible patients who are prescribed either diuretics or Tolvaptan will be allowed to enter a
37 two-week run-in period after enrolment during which these drugs will be withdrawn. At the
38 end of the run-in period, these participants will be reassessed to ensure that they still met the
39 eligibility criteria before commencing the trial. Diuretics will only be withdrawn if the
40 indication is hypertension, and which case alternative anti-hypertensives will be prescribed.
41 Alternatives that would result in acute effects on GFR will be avoided (ACE inhibitors and
42 Angiotensin Receptor Blockers).
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50 **Participant Timeline**

51 The trial design is represented graphically in Figure 1 and the schedule of events in Table 4.

52 *Screening*

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54 Patients who are potentially eligible will be invited for a screening visit. Screening will
55 include a medical history and a targeted ADPKD-related history that captures data on the
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3 timing and nature of the diagnosis, kidney size and function, and the presence of any
4 complications such as pain, haemorrhage, nephrolithiasis or infections. Comorbidities and
5 medications will be recorded. A full physical examination will be conducted that includes
6 assessment of blood pressure. Indicator strip side room urinalysis will be performed. Blood
7 analysis will include a full blood count, liver function tests, electrolytes and creatinine, and
8 paired serum and spot urine osmolalities. Participants that are deemed eligible will be
9 provided with two 24h urine collection bottles for return at the time of the baseline visit in
10 order to measure osmolality and urine volume.

11 *Baseline*

12 Eligible participants who have provided informed consent will be randomised at the time of
13 the baseline visit. A targeted physical examination to assess fluid status and vital signs will
14 be conducted. Participants will be weighed, prescribed medications noted and blood and
15 urine taken to measure electrolytes and creatinine, osmolality and urinalysis. A baseline
16 quality of life EQ5D questionnaire will be completed. Participants will be instructed on how
17 to conduct indicator strip uSG analysis, and asked to perform urinalysis twice weekly on
18 Mondays and Thursdays between 16:00 and 20:00. They will be assisted in installing the
19 DRINK trial smartphone application on their smartphone, and will be provided with a tutorial
20 on its use. This will allow input of home uSG measurements. Participants who do not own a
21 smartphone will be required to telephone, email or text uSG results to the trial team. Finally,
22 participants will be required to complete the DRINK trial pain assessment tool
23 (SUPPLEMENTARY APPENDIX I).

24 *Follow-up (weeks 2, 4, 8):*

25 Participants will be recalled for follow-up visits after 2, 4 and 8 weeks. During these visits, a
26 physical examination will be carried out and weight and vital signs recorded. Blood and urine
27 samples will be taken to measure electrolytes and creatinine, osmolality and urinalysis. Urine
28 for 24h urine osmolality will be collected at weeks 2 and 8 respectively. A dietary assessment
29 will be carried out at weeks 4 and 8. A pain assessment and EQ5D questionnaire will be
30 completed at the 8week visit.

31 *Washout period and final visit:*

32 After completion of the intervention period (week 8), participants will be asked to revert to
33 their pre-enrolment fluid intake. After a further 4 weeks, a final visit will be conducted (week
34 12). This will include all assessments conducted at the 8week visit, with the exception of pain
35 and quality of life questionnaires.

Time Point		Study Period					
		Recruitment	Trial visits				
			Active			Washout	
		W-24**	W0	W2	W4	W8	W12
Enrolment	Screening	X					
	Informed Consent	X					
	Randomisation	X					
Intervention	High water intake						
	Ad libitum water intake						
Assessment	Medical History	X					
	Medication review	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Physical Examination	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Vital Signs (Blood pressure, pulse rate and oximetry)	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Height	X					
	Weight	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Haematology (Full blood count)	X					
	Biochemistry (Urea, Creatinine, Electrolytes, Serum Osmolality)	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Biochemistry (Liver function and bone profile)	X					
	Measured GFR*		X	X	X		
	Urine SG	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Spot Urine Osmolality	X	X	X	X	X	X
	24 hour Urine Collection (volume and osmolality)	X		X		X	X
	Home uSG monitoring***		X	X	X	X	
	SPLASH Monitoring		X	X	X	X	
	Dietary Assessment	X	X		X		X
Pain Questionnaire***		X			X		
Acceptability Questionnaire***			X			X	
EQ5D***			X			X	

Table 4: Schedule of enrolment, intervention and assessments

* ⁵¹Cr-EDTA measured GFR performed as part of a sub-study in 8 participants in the HW group

** 24 week pre study recruitment period. *** Recorded using the DRINK Smartphone App

SUBSTUDY A*Effect of high water intake on ⁵¹CR-EDTA GFR*

Determining the acute effects of high water intake on GFR is a prerequisite to the definition of renal endpoints in any future trial²². We will conduct a substudy to determine the acute effect of high water intake on ⁵¹CR-EDTA GFR, to allow a more rigorous assessment of GFR than that derived from estimation equations. Eight patients will be enrolled in this substudy, which will require a negative pregnancy test in addition to the eligibility criteria for the main trial.

Participants in substudy A will undergo ⁵¹CR-EDTA GFR measurement at baseline, week 2 and week 4 in addition to all other trial measurements.

SUBSTUDY B

SPLASH smartphone fluid intake monitoring

Substudy B was designed to evaluate the feasibility and usability of a novel smartphone based fluid intake monitoring device termed SPLASH¹⁸. This Android based app uses reusable near field communication (NFC) adhesive tags that attach to drink holders (glasses, cups or bottles). Tags are calibrated before use by measuring the drinks container volume (using a standard measuring jug) and programming the app accordingly. The app is activated by holding the phone near the NFC tag, allowing the user to select the volume consumed by identifying the corresponding fraction of the container (e.g. full, ½, ¼ etc.). Ad hoc consumption of fluids from uncalibrated drinks holders is captured using customised credit card or keyring NFC tags pre-calibrated for most drinking scenarios. The app also allows input of daily fluid intake targets and displays progress towards this. Given that the system is android-specific, android phones will be provided to substudy B participants on loan where required.

At least 10 participants will be enrolled in Substudy B. Participants in both trial arms will be eligible for Substudy B enrolment. Training in the use of the SPLASH system will be provided in person, through provision of written information, and via an online training video (<https://vimeo.com/208818645>). Participants will be allowed to use the SPLASH system freely, but will be specifically required to use this for at least 24 hours at the time of the baseline, week 2 and week 8 visits (to coincide with measured 24h urine osmolality).

At the end of Substudy B, participants will be interviewed to provide qualitative data on their experience of using the SPLASH app.

Patient and Public Involvement

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3 High water intake is an issue of great importance and was identified as a key research priority
4 by patients with ADPKD. The DRINK trial was first proposed by the PKD charity in 2015
5 and, facilitated by the Patient Led Research Hub. Patient co-investigators have remained
6 involved throughout the design and set-up, and are co-applicants on the awarded funding
7 grants for the trial. The study design was presented at several PKD charity information days,
8 and patients have provided valuable feedback on the intervention and the use smartphone
9 applications.
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16 The findings of the DRINK trial will be available to patients on the DRINK trial-specific and
17 PKD websites. They will also be presented at the PKD information days that are run
18 throughout the year by the charity.
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24 **Adverse Events and Safety**

25 Adverse events will be assessed at each study visit. Additionally, a 24h trial participant
26 helpline will be made available. Given the nature of the intervention, fluid retention,
27 worsening hypertension and hyponatraemia are adverse events of special interest.
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32 Participants will be withdrawn from the trial in the case of persistent hyponatraemia (<
33 132mmol/L on two consecutive samples), fluid retention defined by the presence of one of 1)
34 pulmonary oedema, 2) significant lower limb swelling, or 3) uncontrolled hypertension on
35 two consecutive visits despite optimal antihypertensive treatment (as judged by the
36 responsible clinician). Participants will also be withdrawn for a decline in eGFR by
37 $\geq 10\text{ml/min/1.73m}^2$ or 25% from baseline, confirmed on two consecutive samples at separate
38 time points.
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45 All adverse events will be recorded from the point of informed consent on the appropriate
46 case report forms. All serious adverse events will be assessed by the chief investigator in
47 terms of seriousness and causality and reported to the sponsor in accordance with GCP
48 guidance.
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53 **Sample size**

54 Data from a small pilot study by Armo et al showed that using a low osmolar diet and high
55 water intake, urine osmolality could be reduced from 426 ± 193 to 258 ± 147 ($p=0.01$) with a
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3 non-significant change in the control group²⁹. This is comparable to the reduction seen in the
4 TEMPO3:4 trial (472 to 264 mOsmo/Kg), where 81% receiving Tolvaptan achieved a urine
5 osmolality < 300 mOsmo/kg compared to 17% in the placebo group³⁰. In order to observe a
6 benefit of high water intake on the rate of kidney function decline, we estimate that a
7 comparable proportion of the high water intake group should achieve a urine osmolality
8 consistent with vasopressin suppression. We estimate that 28 participants would be required
9 to detect 85% of the HW intervention group reaching their target urine osmolality and 15% of
10 controls achieving a urine osmolality less than the target threshold (99% power, two sided $\alpha =$
11 0.05). Assuming a 15% dropout rate, the minimum required sample size is 30.
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18 **Statistical Analysis**

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20 Analysis of the primary and secondary outcomes of the trial will utilise the intention-to-treat
21 principle. All randomised participants will be included in the final analysis within their
22 treatment group allocation regardless of compliance, withdrawal or protocol deviations. Data
23 will be analysed as proportions/percentages, mean \pm standard deviation and with linear
24 mixed-level modelling for repeated measures (uSG, renal function and blood pressure). For
25 non-parametric data median with interquartile range (25-75th) with minimum and maximum
26 values will be reported as appropriate. We will be using a 95% CI and a significance level of
27 ≤ 0.05 . The analysis will be carried out using the STATA version 13.1 statistical software.
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30 We will perform a qualitative assessment of SPLASH looking at ease and acceptability of use
31 through participant questionnaires and face-to-face interviews. We will also collect
32 exploratory data on the validity of SPLASH as a potential fluid intake-monitoring device,
33 comparing the app-based intake volumes recorded to the coinciding urine osmolality results
34 of 24 hour collections.
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42 **Data Management and monitoring**

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44 Data collection will be performed by trained local research staff at each of the trial visits in
45 the form of case report forms. This will then be entered in to the DRINK trial database which
46 is housed in the NIHR accredited Cambridge Clinical Trials Unit and supervised by the trial
47 data manager. Data from the DRINK and SPLASH smartphone applications will be
48 transferred securely to the N3 NHS Database where it can be accessed securely via a
49 specialized administration panel by members of the research team using an encrypted
50 password.
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3 The DRINK study will undergo monitoring for regulatory compliance in accordance with the
4 GCP Guidance via the trial steering committee which independently monitors progress and
5 conduct of the trial and will also provide advice on the continuation, termination or
6 amendments to the trial protocol. DRINK is sponsored by Cambridge University Hospital
7 NHS Foundation Trust and will be subject to regular monitoring visits and audits.
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10 11 12 **Discussion**

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14 The DRINK trial will address the key feasibility issues facing future definitive high water
15 intake trials in ADPKD. Importantly, it will determine the recruitment potential especially
16 given the uptake of Tolvaptan, the optimal renal endpoint and effect size, the randomisation
17 strategy, and demonstrate whether biological feasibility which is essential to any subsequent
18 efficacy findings is achievable. Water as a disease modifying intervention could
19 revolutionise the management of ADPKD, not only providing a low cost, widely available
20 treatment option for those in developing countries, but also those with early disease for whom
21 it is essential to target cyst development early. Yet the early stage of their condition and lack
22 of renal function decline makes it difficult to justify the use of medications with potentially
23 toxic side effects as the risk-benefit ratio in this group remains largely unknown.
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31 32 **Ethics and Dissemination**

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34 Ethical approval was awarded by the East of England Essex Research Ethics Committee in
35 July 2016 (16/EE/0026). DRINK opened to recruitment in September 2016, and the last study
36 visit is anticipated to be April 2018. The primary and secondary outcomes results will be
37 published in peer-reviewed journals, this will include a separate paper on the use of
38 smartphone technology in clinical trial design and the longitudinal ADPKD pain
39 characteristics. A synopsis of the trial findings will also be made available to participants
40 and the public through the trial specific website and the PKD charity. All the DRINK data
41 will be shared through the Cambridge Data Repository.
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Contributors

All the authors contributed to the design and development of the study protocol, and have reviewed the manuscript. TFH and TH conceived the study. TFH, RED, IBW, FKF and RNS designed the study, and contributed to recruitment, trial oversight and implementation of the intervention. ML provided specific support with regards to the assessment of pain in trial participants. SB and HP provided statistical expertise and supported the development of the statistical analysis plan. LBM supported the development of the patient-led proposal through the Patient led research hub. AB, PW and YB developed the SPLASH app and contributed to development of the protocol for the SPLASH sub-study.

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Conflict of interest

The authors declare that they have no competing interests

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20 21 22 23 **Legends for figures**

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25 Figure 1: Schematic of the DRINK trial design. Participants are randomised 1:1 to the High
26 water (HW) or Ad libitum (AW) water intake groups. Each participant in the HW group is
27 given an individualised daily water prescription with urinary dilution targets consistent with
28 vasopressin suppression. The AW group has more concentrated urinary targets.
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33 Figure 2: Smartphone technology used during the DRINK study. The SPLASH app uses near
34 field communication technology to automate fluid intake monitoring (left). The DRINK app
35 will be used to record urine specific gravity results allowing remote data collection and
36 monitoring of progress (right).
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41 Figure 3: Calculation of fluid prescription using the free water clearance equation. Insensible
42 losses were arbitrarily set at 500mls as an average
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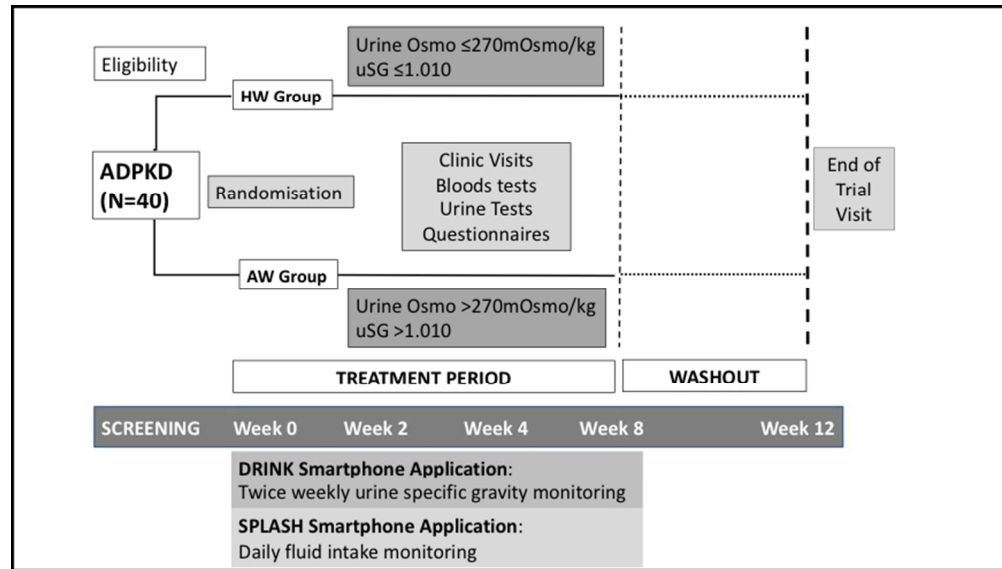


Figure 1: Schematic of the DRINK trial design. Participants are randomised 1:1 to the High water (HW) or Ad libitum (AW) water intake groups. Each participant in the HW group is given an individualised daily water prescription with urinary dilution targets consistent with vasopressin suppression. The AW group has more concentrated urinary targets.

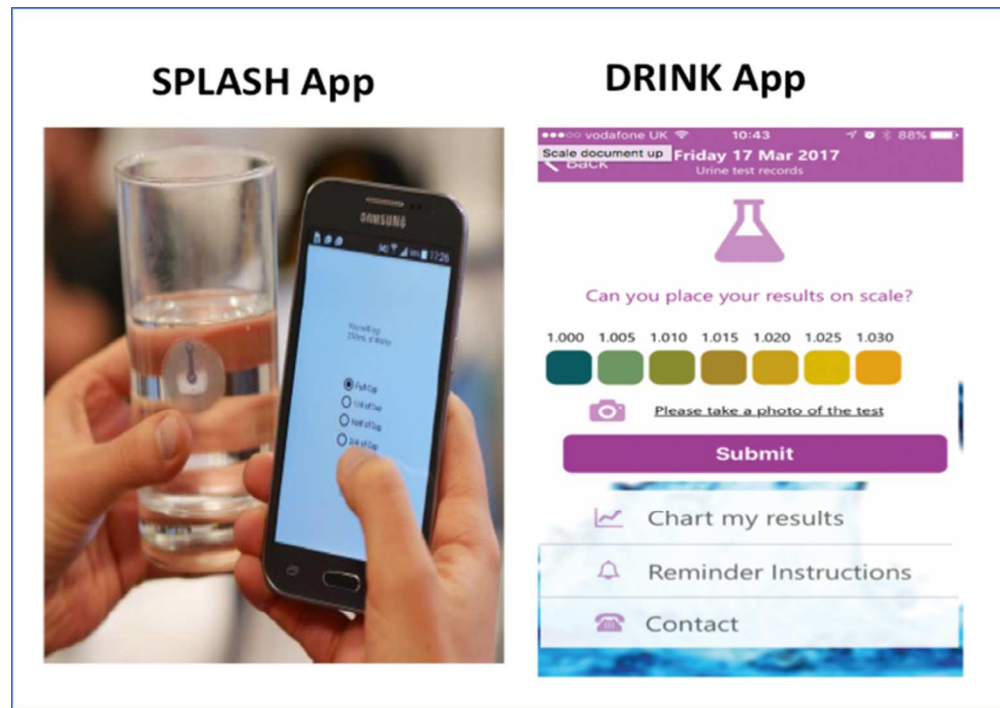


Figure 2: Smartphone technology used during the DRINK study. The SPLASH app uses near field communication technology to automate fluid intake monitoring (left). The DRINK app will be used to record urine specific gravity results allowing remote data collection and monitoring of progress (right).

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Calculation is shown for a hypothetical patient

Average of 2x 24 hours collections:
Total Solute = Urine Osmolality (mOsmo/Kg) x Urine Volume (mls)

Free Water Clearance Formula:
Fluid intake = {Total Solute (moSmo)/270} + Insensible Losses*

Example
The average 24 hour urine collection results for a participant in the HW group show the following;
Urine Osmolality 400mOsmo/Kg
Urine Volume 1500mls

Thus....
Total solute = 400 x 1500 = 600000
Fluid intake = (600000/270) + 500 = 2722 mls

**A minimum of 2722 milliliters of fluid/day is required to achieve the target urine osmolality
 $\leq 270\text{mOsmo/kg}$**

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Figure 3: Calculation of fluid prescription using the free water clearance equation. Insensible losses were arbitrarily set at 500mls as an average

Appendix I - Pain Questionnaire

BASELINE/ SCREENING +/- other visits too.

Throughout our lives, most of us have had pain from time to time (such as minor headaches, sprains, and toothaches). Have you had pain other than these everyday kinds of pain? **YES/NO**

If YES,
Body Map:

Please shade using **horizontal** lines in the areas where all your pain(s) are.

Now shade using **vertical** lines where you feel that your **kidney** problems are causing pain.

Put X on **where pain** it hurts (bothers) you the most.

For area marked X,

Please rate your pain by marking the box beside the number that best describes your pain at its **WORST** in the **last 2 weeks**

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	10		
<i>No pain</i>																				<i>Pain as Bad As You Can Imagine</i>	

Please rate your pain by marking the box beside the number that best describes your pain at its **LEAST** in the **last 2 weeks**

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	10		
<i>No pain</i>																				<i>Pain as Bad As You Can Imagine</i>	

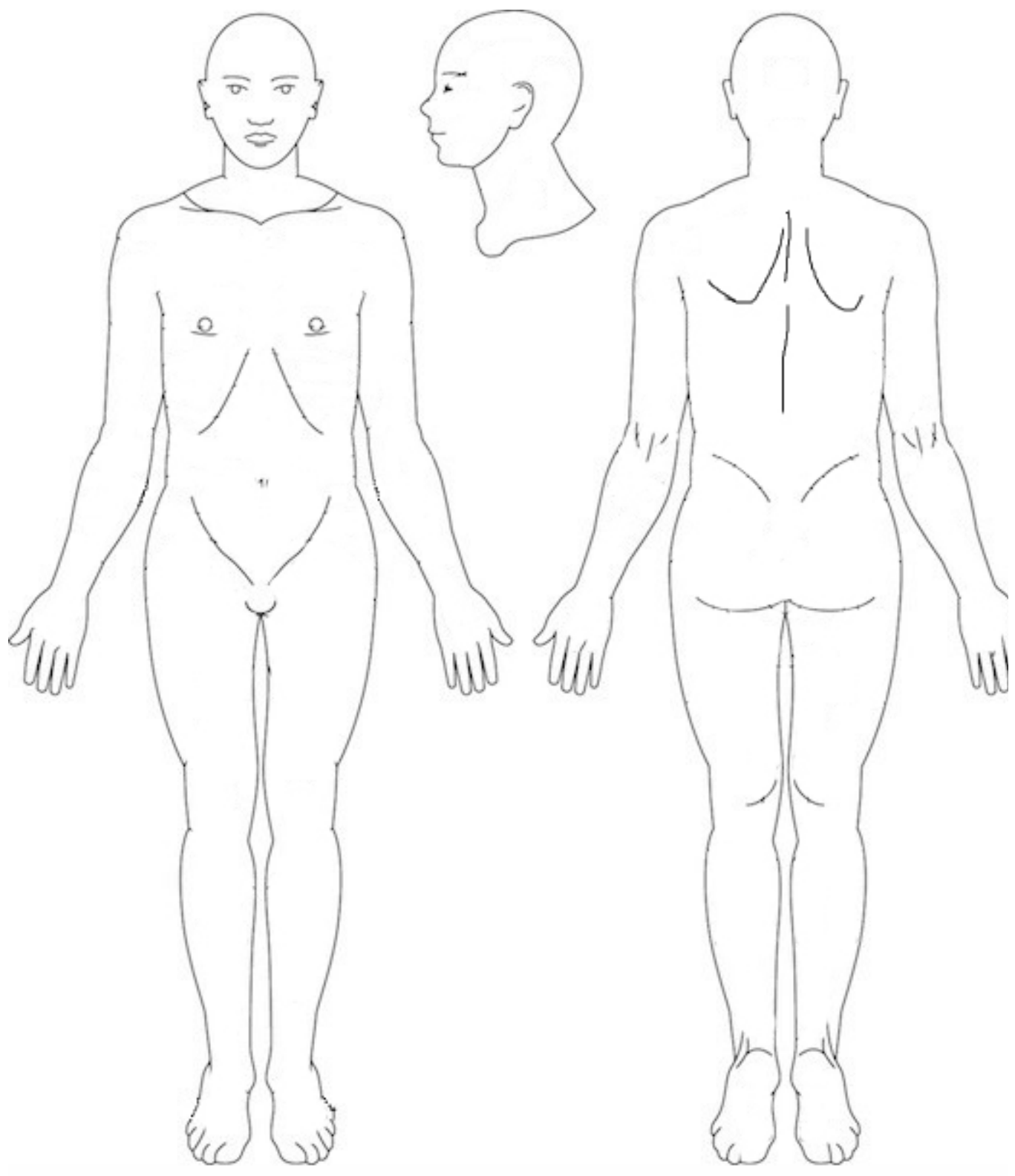
Please rate your pain by marking the box beside the number that best describes your pain **ON AVERAGE**

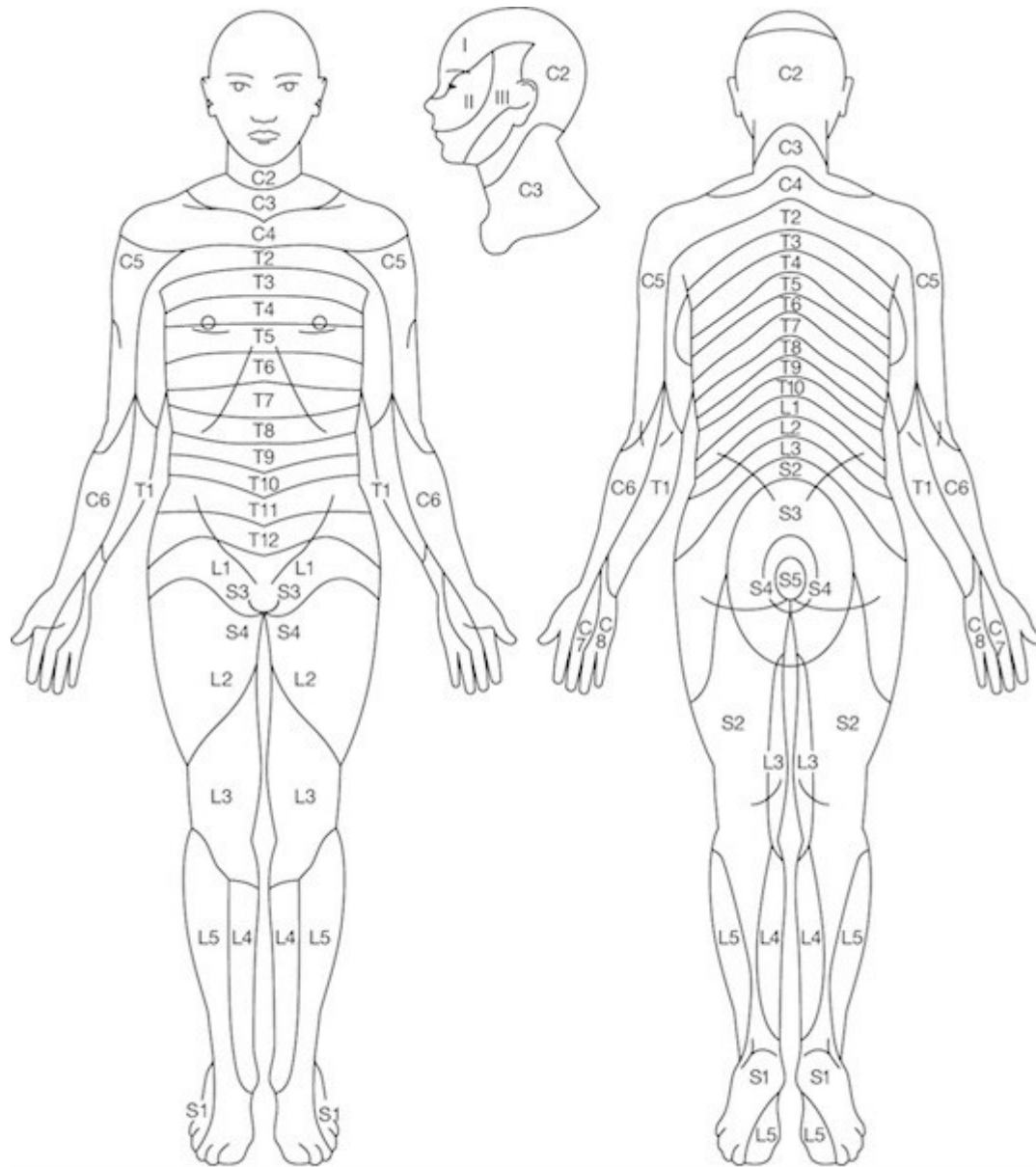
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	10		
<i>No pain</i>																				<i>Pain as Bad As You Can Imagine</i>	

Please rate your pain by marking the box beside the number that tells us how much pain you have **RIGHT NOW**

<input type="checkbox"/>	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	3	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	<input type="checkbox"/>	6	<input type="checkbox"/>	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	10		
<i>No pain</i>																				<i>Pain as Bad As You Can Imagine</i>	

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BASELINE & FOLLOW-UP VISITS

McGill Pain Questionnaire:

This questionnaire provides you with a list of words that describe some of the different qualities of pain and related symptoms.

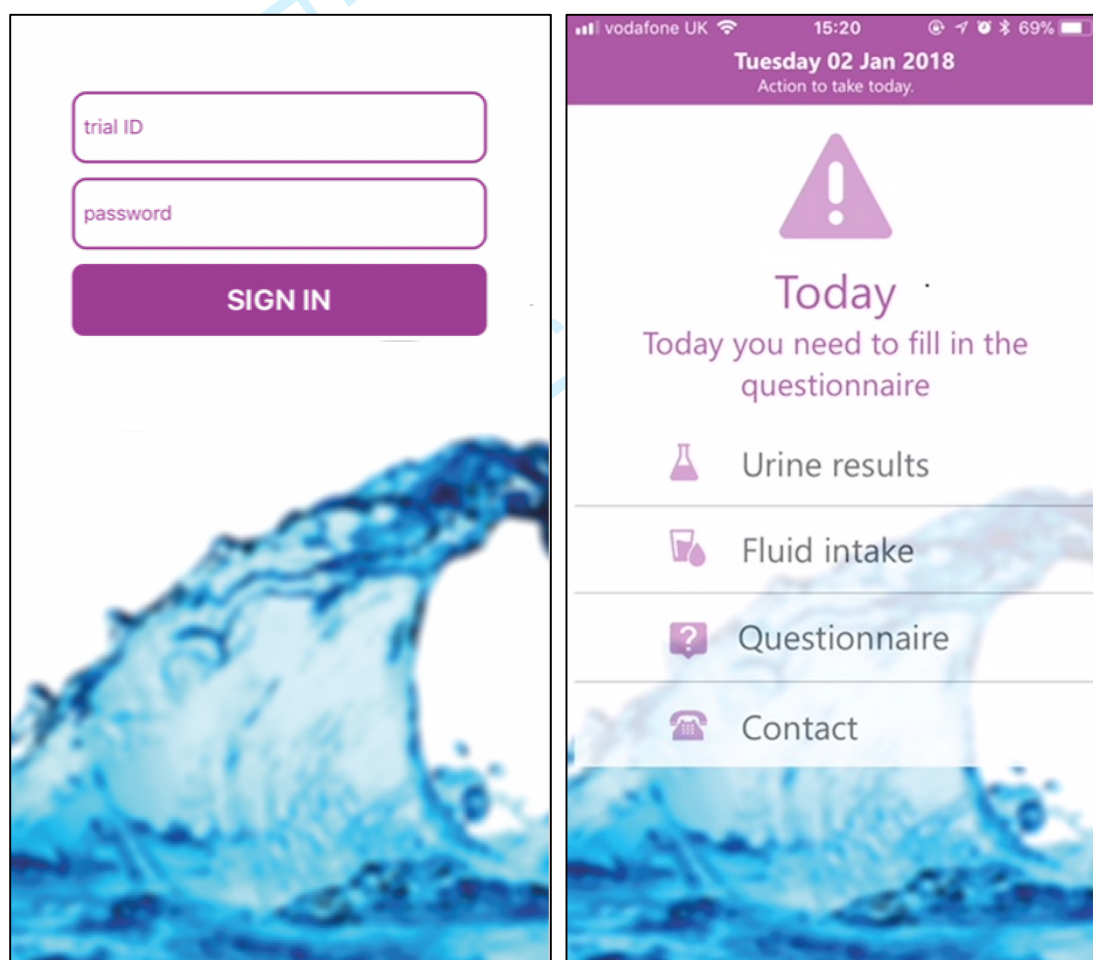
Please put an **X** through the numbers that best describe the intensity of each of the pain and related symptoms you felt during the past **TWO WEEKS**.

Use **0** if the word does not describe your pain or related symptoms

1. Throbbing pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
2. Shooting pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
3. Stabbing pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
4. Sharp pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
5. Cramping pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
6. Gnawing pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
7. Hot-burning pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
8. Aching pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
9. Heavy pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
10. Tender	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
11. Splitting pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
12. Tiring-exhausting	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
13. Sickening	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
14. Fearful	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
15. Punishing-cruel	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
16. Electric-shock pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
17. Cold-freezing pain	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
18. Piercing	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
19. Pain caused by light touch	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
20. Itching	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
21. Tingling or 'pins and needles'	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible
22. Numbness	none	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	worst possible

Appendix II – DRINK Smartphone Application









The smartphone application will be used by participants to record the results of their urine specific gravity (SG) measurement, pain and EQ 5D quality of life questionnaire and the participant acceptability question. Each participant will be given a unique trial ID number. When accessing the application for the first time, they will need to register and select a unique password. After this, each access to the application will require participants to input their unique trial ID and password. The information inputted is transferred and stored securely on the NHS N3 server. This is facilitated by FatFractile Ltd. Below is a picture of the login screen and the home screen that participants can use to navigate through the application.



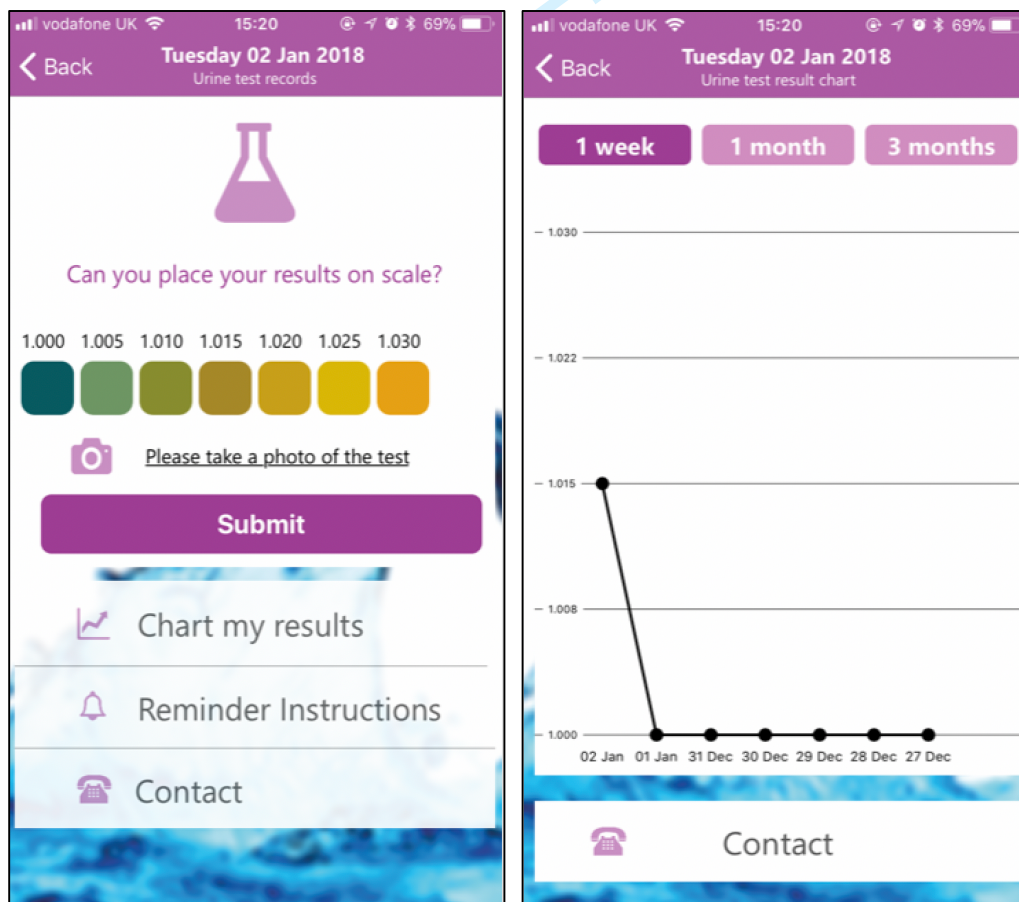
1) Home monitoring of urine SG

Every Monday and Thursday morning between 9am-12pm participants will receive a push notification from the reminding them that today a urine SG dipstick test is required and that this should be done between 4-8pm. Once they have the urine test result participants will be asked to input the urine SG result, see below.

Please select the colour that corresponds with your urine result

Specific Gravity 60s	1.000	1.005	1.010	1.015	1.020	1.025	1.030
							
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

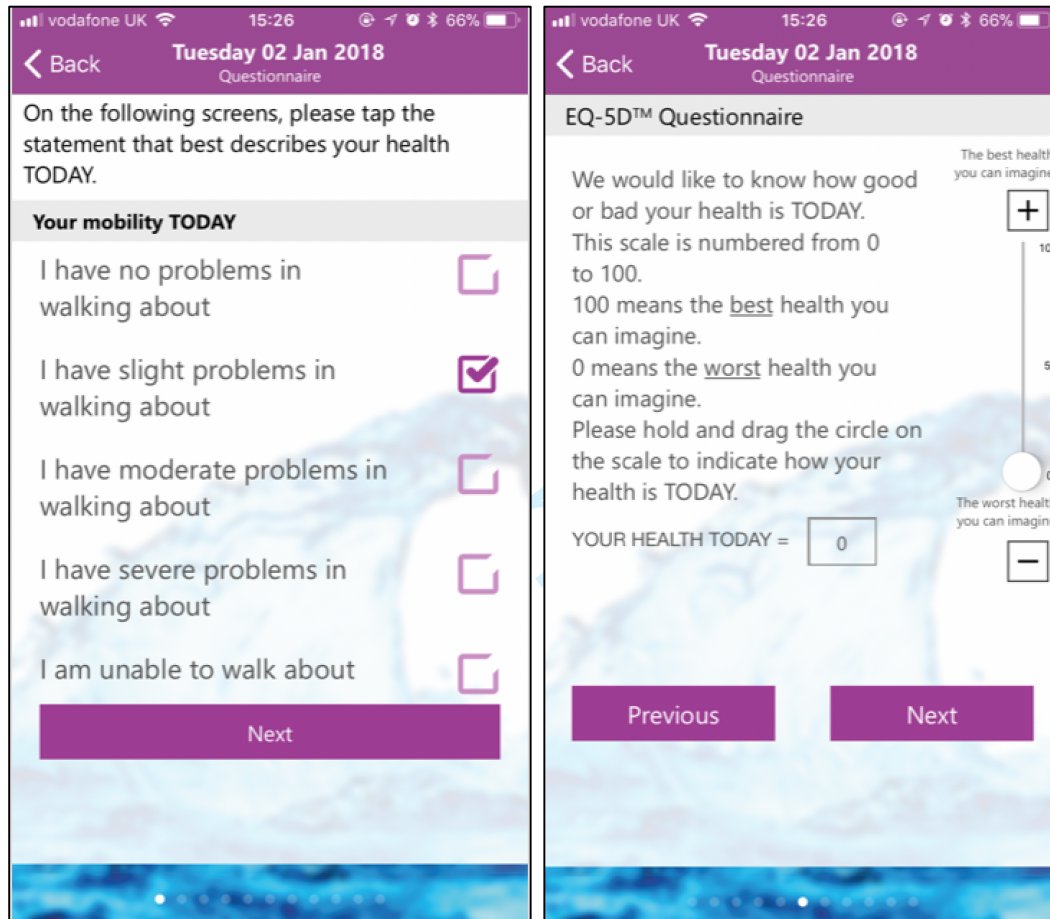
Once they make a selection this data can be transferred securely to the N3 database. A link is also available that will direct the participants to the trial specific website if they require further information or advice. Participants can also view their previous results in chart format to monitor their own progress. A picture of the urine results page as seen in the app is seen below.



2) EQ 5D Questionnaire

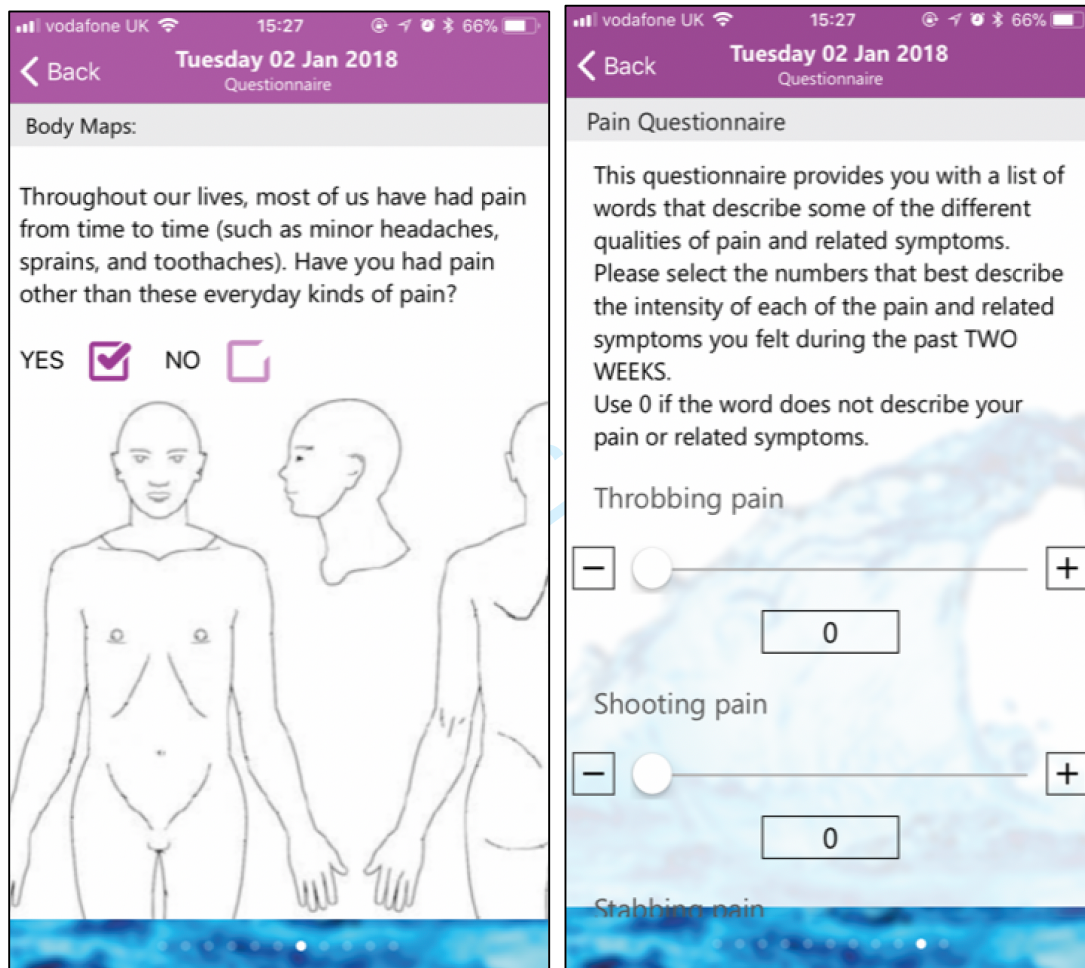
Participants will be reminded to fill out this questionnaire on the smartphone application at the screening visit and again at week 8. The results will be securely transferred to the NHS N3 server.

Examples of the questionnaire as seen in the smartphone app are demonstrated below.



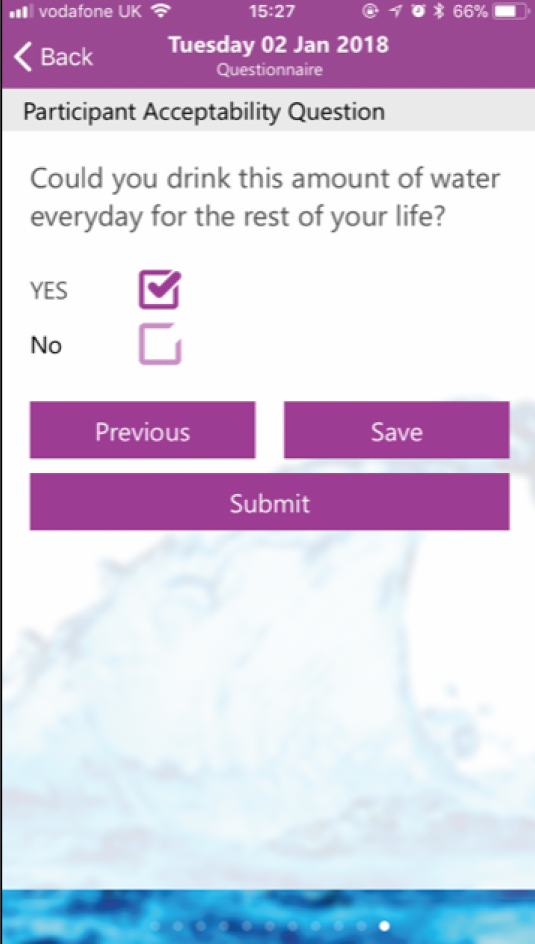
3) Pain Questionnaire

Participants will be reminded to fill out their pain questionnaire on the smartphone application at the screening and at the end of the treatment period at week 8. The data will be securely transferred to the NHS N3 database. Examples of the questionnaire from the app are demonstrated here.



4) Participant Acceptability Question

Participants will be reminded to answer the acceptability question on the smartphone application at weeks 0 and then again at week 8. An example of the question as seen in the app is shown below.



The screenshot shows a mobile application interface for a questionnaire. At the top, the status bar displays 'vodafone UK', signal strength, Wi-Fi, time '15:27', location, and battery '66%'. The app header is purple with a white back arrow and the text 'Tuesday 02 Jan 2018' and 'Questionnaire'. Below the header, the title 'Participant Acceptability Question' is displayed in a grey bar. The main content area is white and contains the question: 'Could you drink this amount of water everyday for the rest of your life?'. There are two radio button options: 'YES' with a checked box and 'No' with an unchecked box. At the bottom, there are three purple buttons: 'Previous', 'Save', and 'Submit'. The background of the app shows a blurred image of water splashing.