

Pharmacy Engages Actively in Clinical Trials Activity

For the first time in Denmark, part of the clinical trial operations are moved into a local pharmacy. Glostrup Pharmacy leads the way for pharmacies to become crucial stakeholders in clinical trials by becoming involved in a pilot study that tests the data quality of blood sugar and behavior monitoring of type 2 diabetes patients.

The approach to the study is initiated as a collaboration between Apotekerforeningen and Studies&Me (previously known as LEO Innovation Lab) to move parts of clinical trials operations from hospitals to local pharmacies. By moving clinical research closer to patients and their everyday life, the pharmacies assist in making it more convenient for patients to take part in treatment development.

For Glostrup Pharmacy this is a completely new way of driving activities. The pharmacy is responsible for advertisement and recruitment and if a patient fits the study criteria the pharmacists will take care of the informed consent process, hand out the study devices and act as point of contact during the study when participants have study related questions. The pharmacist will act on behalf of a supervising medical doctor.

Pharmacies actively contributing to research is an approach which has not been tried out in clinical studies in Denmark so far.

Anne Khans from Apotekerforeningen says: *“This study shows how we can expand the role of pharmacies from being a provider of medicine to also being a provider of clinical trial services. Since we have the professional competencies and already engage with patients on a daily basis, we see this as a perfect match and possibility for pharmacies to make an even bigger benefit for patients in the future than we do today.”*

A remote pilot study that monitors type 2 diabetes patients

The feasibility study engages patients with type 2 diabetes and aims to test the operational viability of using a remote clinical design to collect continuous blood glucose readings in patients and investigate the quality of the collected data. The study is performed remotely, which means that the participants self monitor from home via digital devices and a study app that is downloaded to their smartphone. All trial data is collected through electronic devices connected to the participant's own smartphones.

Studies&Me

The pilot study will run over a course of 3 weeks and is performed to prepare for a bigger study which will launch later this year.

Patients may benefit from the having clinical trials closer to their everyday lives

By involving pharmacies in clinical trials, it is the hope of the study responsible parties to make use of the pharmacist's professional competencies to make potential study participants feel safe and well informed in the study process.

Trial Nation is working alongside Studies&Me to advance clinical trials in Denmark. CEO of Trial Nation, Marianne Pilgaard is very excited about this novel approach to clinical trials: *“Involving local pharmacies in clinical research gives Denmark a competitive edge in the clinical trial space. As far as we know this type of collaboration has not been done before. Involving the pharmacies in recruitment and screening of patients for clinical trials means that we can meet the patients where they are and at the same time release some of the burden of clinical trial efforts at the hospital”.*

Chief Physician Kirsten Nørgaard from Steno Diabetes Center Copenhagen adds: *“I see a great potential and value in making clinical research more patient centric by moving parts of clinical trial conduct into pharmacies and into patients' homes. The patient pool that we are able to reach by operating closer to the everyday lives of people opens up for generating pivotal data that is relevant for understanding and treating diabetes better”.*

The study is expected to run through the month of September and has the aim to include 27 participants.

Studies&Me Factbox:

Studies&Me is a virtual contract research organisation established to set new standards for clinical research.

We believe the future of treatment development is patient- and data-driven. With a legacy in pharma and health technologies, Studies&Me is working to digitize treatment development across all stages; from recruitment to trial completion.

Studies&Me was initially conceived in 2016 as a platform to facilitate online patient recruitment and qualification for clinical trials at LEO Innovation Lab, LEO Pharma's independent innovation unit.

Since then, we have explored, tested, and validated new methods for conducting smarter, faster, and more accessible clinical trials by tapping into the unmet potential of emerging technologies and ever-expanding volumes of digital data within treatment development.

Studies&Me

Today, Studies&Me has become an independent company and Europe's first virtual contract research organisation, specialising in delivering state of the art end-to-end solutions for conducting decentralized trials.

We collaborate with partners across the globe to advance human health and achieve our mission: To personalize treatment development.