Green Team Research: making clinical research more sustainable

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All divisions of UMC Utrecht

Goal
We aim to make clinical research within the UMC Utrecht more sustainable and environmental friendly.

Let's introduce

Sustainability is *trending*! The UMC Utrecht is trying to improve sustainability in many ways.
As Green Team Research, we first met in 2021. The reason for this? We were bothered by all the paper printing that is needed when performing a clinical trial. You might recognize the image to the right...

By working together with the different divisions of the UMC Utrecht, we hope to make a change!

Results

The Subject Information Sheet (SIS) is no longer stored on paper
The UMC Utrecht policy has been successfully adjusted. From now on, only the signed informed consent form is stored in the paper study file. The rest of the Subject Information Sheet, often consisting of more than 20 pages, no longer needs to be stored in the paper study file for each subject.

Plans

Most content of the study file is soon allowed to be stored digitally
Study files with over 100 printed pages will soon be history, as many of these documents may be stored digitally in the updated Research Folder Structure in the near future!

Digital correspondence of study information
Correspondence between researchers and patients about the study is often done via post and not via online tools. We are exploring how we can use and stimulate safe digital correspondence between patients and researchers within the UMC Utrecht.

Digitally signing documents
We are tracking the development of digital signing tools within the UMC Utrecht, which will also benefit the reduction of paper printing.

Let's work together on ways to make our research more environmental friendly. Please let us know all your ideas!

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