

The Role of the Clinical Admission Nurse on the NIHR/Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility (CRF), Cambridge Daisy Appanah

Background

On average the Cambridge CRF facilitates n = 211 concurrent studies from a wide range of medical specialities and which are led by very diverse research teams. Most studies, additional to requiring specific rooms, also utilise a broad range of CRF equipment. At the same time the availability of specifically skilled CRF staff has to be ensured for each of the studies.

Originally it was the responsibility of the nurse, who was the nominated shift coordinator for the day, to undertake the required study bookings for rooms, staff and equipment. With increasing numbers of studies taking place on the CRF, it became apparent that the booking for CRF resources became too complex and too numerous to be undertaken consistently well by the various CRF nurses alongside their other duties.

Aim

To improve efficiency of the study bookings for the CRF

Method

In 2011, the CRF introduced the role of a full-time Clinical Admission Nurse. Her role was to utilise her prior clinical research skills to reliably undertake the bookings of the CRF resources (rooms, expertise and equipment) to match the requirements of all study visits.

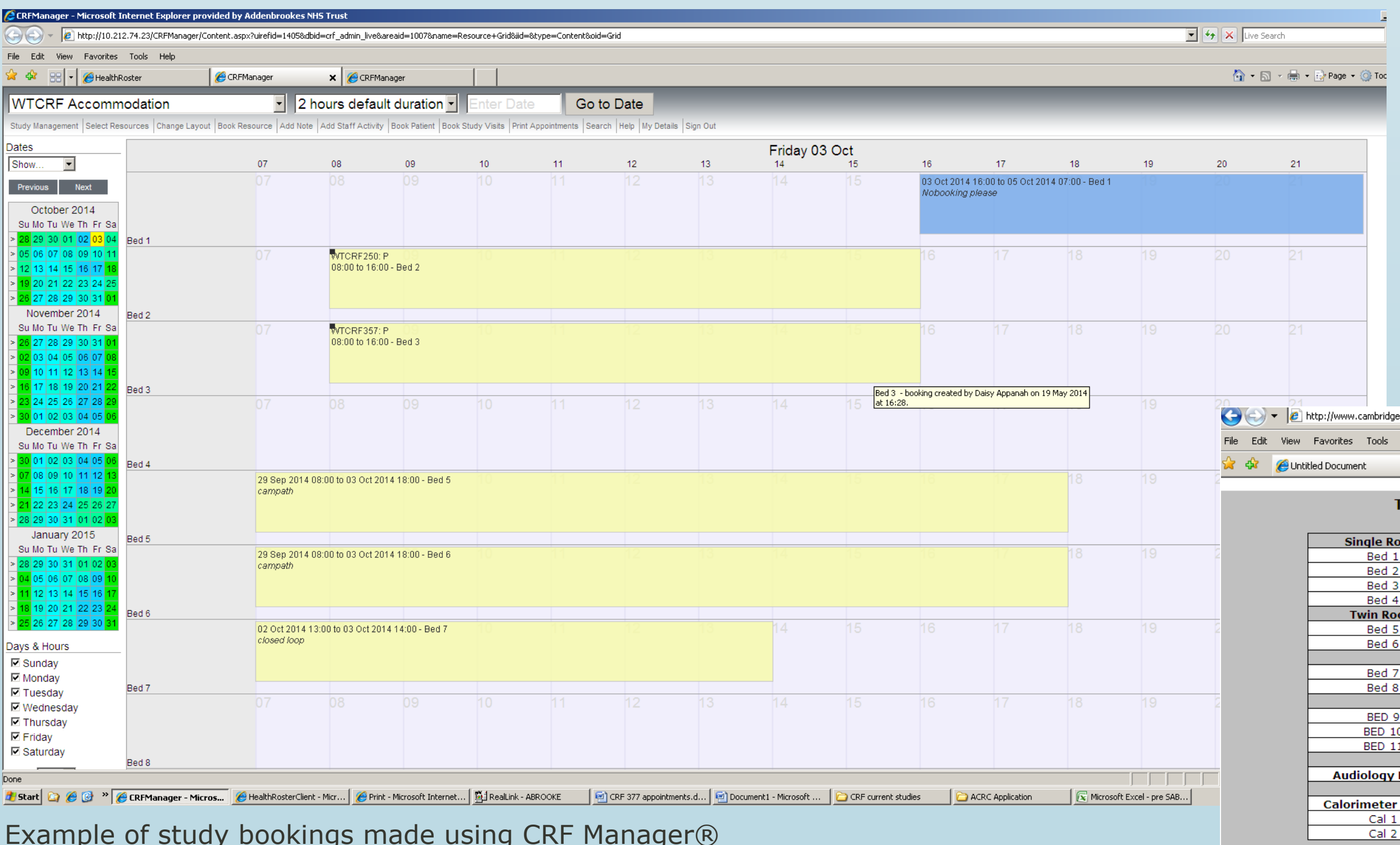
The CRF also introduced the CRF Manager® electronic booking system and an online view of CRF room availability. Both are overseen and maintained by the Clinical Admission Nurse.

Outcomes

- Studies are planned and booked safely in the time-frame as per each study protocol
• Satisfaction levels of researchers, with the ease and reliability of booking, have increased
• Occupancy rates have increased
• Study cancellations rates have decreased



CRF Study Activity in the period April 2013 – March 2014
Number of active studies: 273
Number of patients seen: 8,440



Example of study bookings made using CRF Manager®

Role and Responsibilities of the Clinical Admission Nurse

- Responsible for planning and booking studies on the ACRC via the CRF Manager booking system
• Review rooms availability pre-Scientific Advisory Board Meeting
• Ensure that resources are available for the safe running of the studies
• Meeting with research teams on a regular basis
• Keep the WEB availability page up to date via the bookings link http://www.cambridge.crf.nihr.ac.uk
• Manage staff roster via Manpower Analysis Planning System
• Support and teach nursing staff to write the roster
• Manage the daily work load and staff ratio
• Attend relevant meetings as per role:
Scientific Advisory Board Meeting
Study set up meetings
UKCRF Network IT meetings
CRF Manager User Group Meeting

Conclusion

The Clinical Admission Nurse is a major contributing factor in the improved management of study bookings on the CRF.

Table showing online CRF Cambridge room availability for Thursday 17th July 2014, with columns for Single Room, Twin Room, Auditorium Room, and Resources.

Example of online CRF Cambridge room availability

Contact

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