The DCM™ EPIC Trial aims to evaluate the DCM™ intervention, if randomised to the DCM™ arm (versus Usual Care alone for people with dementia, the trial is also recruiting: 1) Care home residents with dementia 2) A staff proxy informant for each resident 3) A relative / friend proxy informant for each resident (if available and willing) 4) Two mappers at each home, to be trained and deliver the DCM™ intervention, if randomised to the DCM™ arm 5) All care home staff are then given a questionnaire booklet to complete.

Eligibility must be confirmed for all ‘roles’, and fully informed consent must be obtained. This involves complex, lengthy discussions with all parties and provision of tailored information sheets specific to each ‘role’. Whilst identifying staff proxy informants is relatively straightforward, relative / friend proxy informants are, in some cases, a little more difficult. Relative / friends are not always present in the home during the researcher visit, and researchers are therefore reliant on care homes posting the trial materials out directly to the relative / friends, as the researcher has no consent to access their details at this point. This has the potential for delays.

Appropriate mapper selection is vital to ensure the intervention can be delivered in the homes. Thus selected mappers have to possess certain skills and capabilities to enable them to take on this role. Detailed discussions take place between consented mappers and trial experts to ensure suitability, which can again add to the time needed for recruitment.