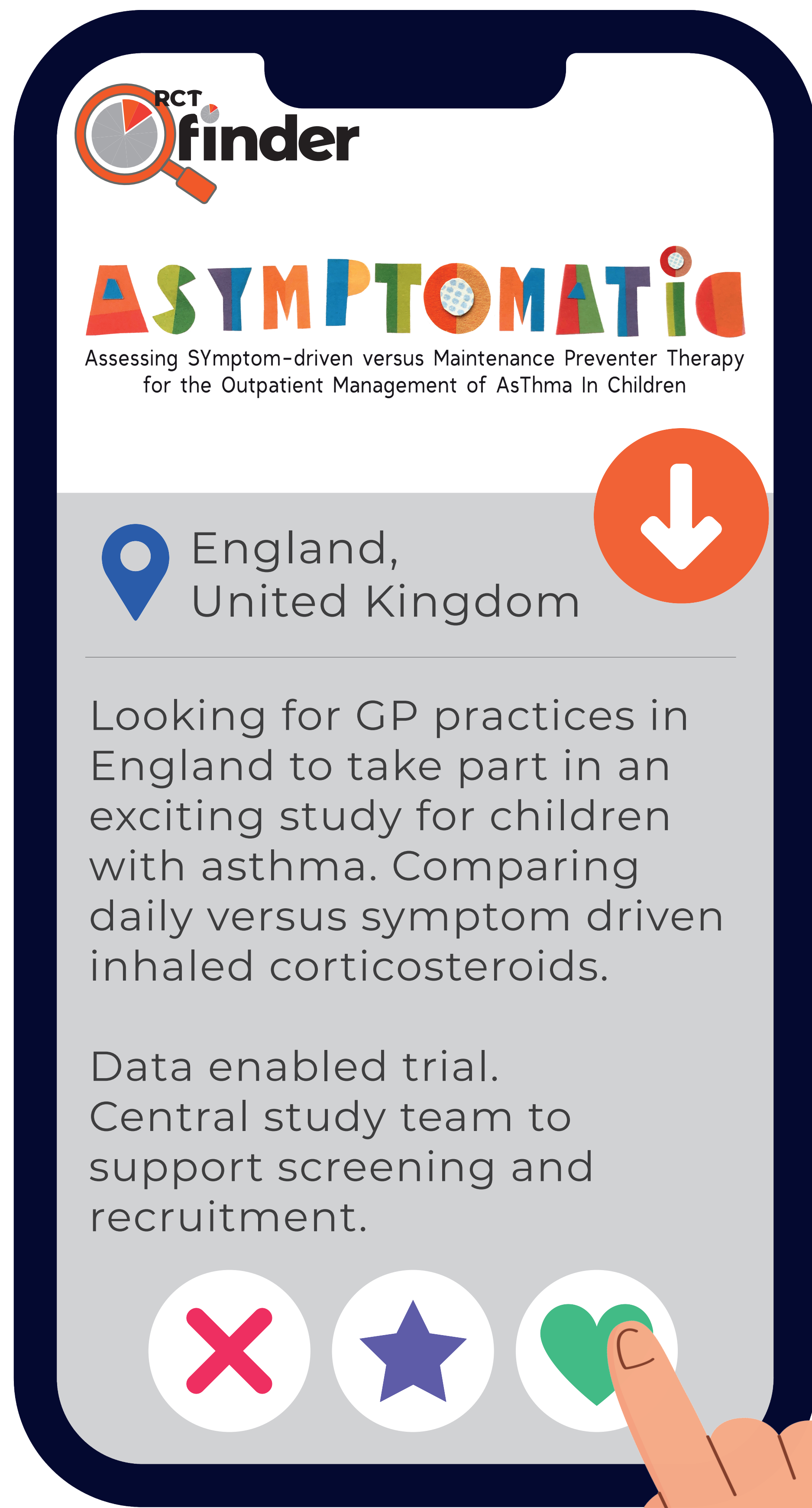


# Ghosts in the system

At what stage should we stop pursuing sites that have stopped communicating?

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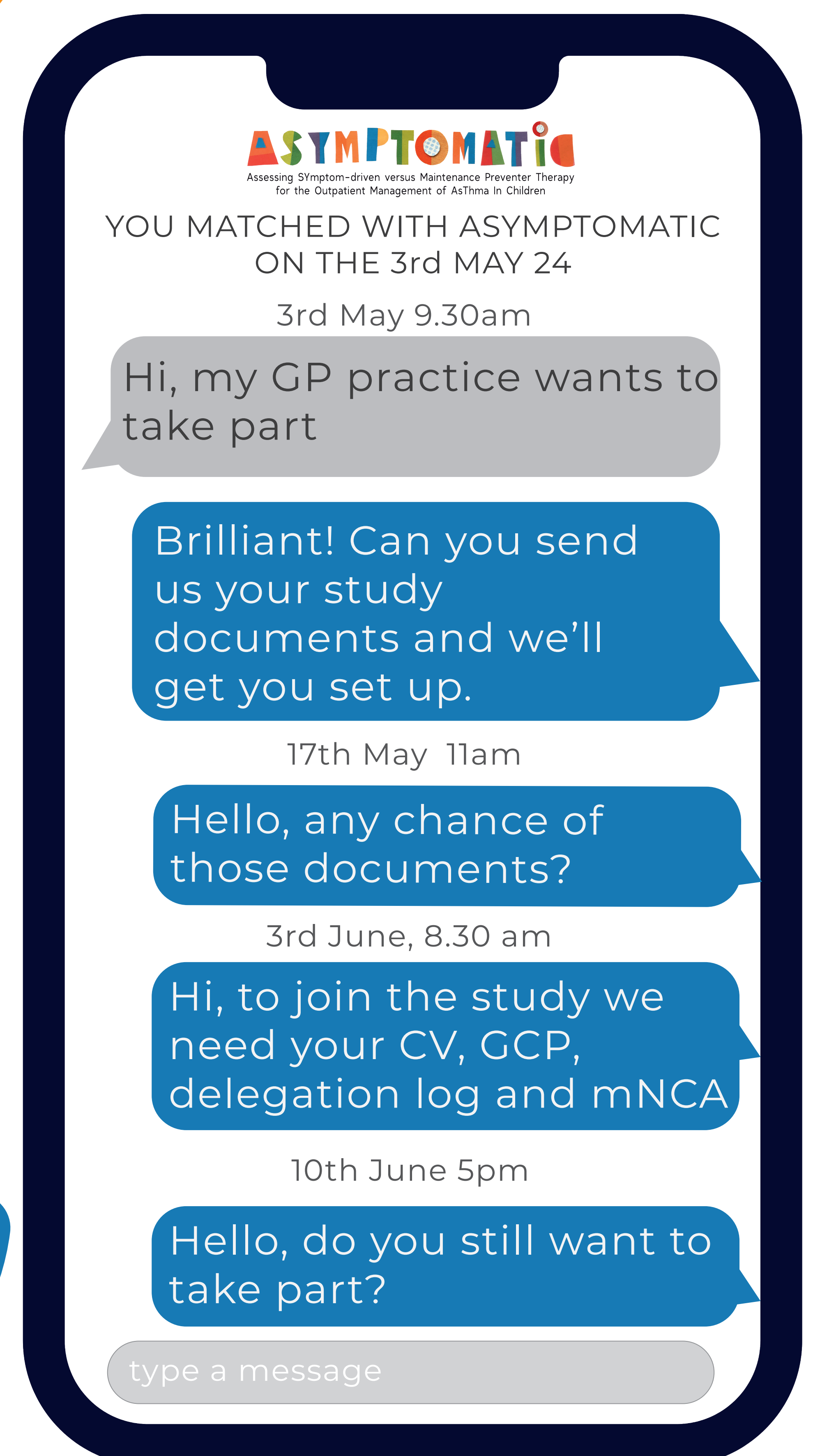


The ASYMPTOMATIC trial has a recruitment target of 250 sites and 2000 participants.

Trial sites are identified from GP practices registered with Clinical Practice Research Datalink (CPRD).

Sites are provided with study information, and asked to return an expression of interest (EOI).

Those who return the EOI are followed up by the study team to collect documentation required for site opening.



23%

Returned an EOI (365 of 1571 GP practices invited)

61%

Sites with an EOI activated (224 of 365 with an EOI, 6 sites in set up)

83 days

Median time EOI to activation (14-864 days)

Withdrawn during set up. Site request after EOI return and before activation.

10%

36 of 365 sites with an EOI

Median time from EOI submission to site request to withdraw - 114 days (range 114-804)

No response during set up. After repeated communications from study team.

Ghosted by

27%

99 of 365 sites with an EOI



Ghosting is a term that describes a way of ending a relationship by stopping all communication. Do sites that stop communicating want to end their involvement?

The resource needed to open trial sites is increased when communication from sites is poor. Slow progression through set up may also indicate future issues with communication and site performance.

"Ghosting" might imply a site's desire to end involvement. Defining non-response, and communicating this with sites, could help avoid delays in site recruitment by facilitating faster identification of sites no longer interested and re-allocation of resources.