Patient visits GP with a knee problem.

GP refers patient for physiotherapy at local physiotherapy out-patients department.

Potential participants identified

Potential participants telephoned

Patient receives information about study

Research visit arranged, baseline questionnaire sent to patient

Full eligibility screen
Written consent
Baseline questionnaire and examination

Clinical assessment with physiotherapist
Randomisation

Advice & Exercise plus true acupuncture
Advice & Exercise plus placebo acupuncture
Advice & Exercise alone

2-week follow-up phone call to check treatment compliance and credibility

Postal follow-up at 6-weeks, 6- and 12-months

Patient managed with usual physiotherapy

Patient unsuitable

GP receives letter about study