Practice-based seminar
Local co-ordinator presents to the GPs the trial procedures including:
• eligibility criteria and informed consent
• randomisation procedures
• [the education package if GPs were unable to attend the educational seminar]

Educational seminar
Local clinical collaborators and co-ordinator present information to GPs:
• diagnosis of patients with knee problems and treatments available
• who would benefit from orthopaedic referral
• how to interpret MRI findings
• recruitment procedures

Patient consults GP about knee problem
• GP gives the patient an information leaflet.
• GP assesses eligibility:
  a) If patient eligibility is confirmed then the GP explains the two alternative pathways and the trial, and obtains patient’s consent; pre-randomisation forms are completed, and randomisation undertaken by telephone.
  b) If patient is not yet eligible, the GP manages him or her appropriately until an orthopaedic referral is necessary.

MRI and provisional orthopaedic referral

Orthopaedic specialist

GP questionnaire on receipt of imaging report or letter from orthopaedic specialist

Participant postal questionnaires after 6, 12 and 24 months