## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

TPS Thumb Osteoarthritis Prognosis for Self-management

## Thank you TOPS participants

The TOPS Study began recruiting on 8th August 2023. The study aims to follow your progress for 6-months to understand how we can improve NHS care, thank you for helping us to achieve this goal.



93 people are part of the TOPS Study at present - great progress! We anticipate reaching 150 before September. Please fill in your 3 & 6 month questionnaires - information which is

## **Target 150 participants**





critical for knowing outcomes of care over time. Interviews have begun - 6 participants interviewed last month.

## Did you know?

- Thumb base osteoarthritis is very common. Sometimes it occurs in isolation, sometimes the finger joints are affected also.
- The thumb is responsible for 40% of hand use, and pain at the basal joint can have a large impact on grip strength as well as pinch strength.
- It is important to exercise to regain the flexibility of the thumb and a good stable thumb posture. Then you can build up your grip and pinch strength.

