RATULS Trial flowchart

Target population
720 adults at least one week post stroke with moderate to severe arm functional limitation.

Case ascertainment/recruitment
Potentially eligible patients identified from hospital services, community services and primary care by clinicians and LCRN staff.
Study discussed and patient information sheet given.

Consent
Written informed consent obtained by LCRN staff or local study coordinator.

Screening/baseline assessment
Screening/baseline assessment performed by LCRN staff or local study coordinator.

Central randomisation
Newcastle University

Group 1 (n=240)
Robot assisted training

Participants will receive therapy for up to 45min, 3 days per week for 12 weeks

Group 2 (n=240)
Enhanced upper limb therapy programme

Participants will receive therapy for up to 45min, 3 days per week for 12 weeks

Group 3 (n=240)
Usual care

Participants will receive usual post stroke care

Process evaluation interviews – patients

Three month assessment

1. Upper limb function (Action Research Arm Test)
2. Upper limb impairment (Fugl-Meyer Test)
3. Activities of daily living (Barthel ADL Index)
4. Quality of life (Stroke Impact Scale, EQ-5D-5L)
5. Adverse events including upper limb pain

Process evaluation interviews – health professionals

Six month assessment
Outcome measures as above plus resource usage