Information on Cashless System being piloted for payments to study participants

The Faculty of Health Sciences and the University of Cape Town are piloting a cashless system, with the main purpose of reducing or eliminating the transfer of cash to clinical participants, in order to increase security. A method of payment by electronic vouchers instead of cash is being introduced.

* **UCT has a network of clinical trial centres conducting clinical studies and trials**
  + The participants in the studies receive a payment for their participation
  + Currently these payments are made in cash at the end of each visit
* **Cash payments are currently posing the following challenges**
  + Security risk for the employees handling the cash as well as the participants
  + Risks associated with the transportation and on site management of cash
  + Extensive administration to account for all the cash payments
* **UCT needs a solution where these payments will be cashless**
  + Due to the temporary nature of the relationship with participants, bank account based payments are not viable
  + The solution also needs to be cognisant of the profiles of the participants, particularly with regard to literacy and technological limitations
* **An Instant Money solution will be piloted over a period of six months** 
  + Participants will be issued with Instant Money Vouchers that are redeemable at Standard Bank ATMs as well as retailers Spar, Cambridge, Rhino and Choppies. Pick ‘n Pay will be added to the network by the end of the year.

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