Figure 1. Flow diagram of participant recruitment and randomisation

Patients referred by PCPs to community nurse with:
(1) OSA50 ≥5 & (2) ESS ≥8 or resistant hypertension criteria (n=402)*

Declined involvement or could not be contacted (n=86)
Did not meet other eligibility criteria (n=15)

ApneaLink oximetry study (n=301)

≥3%ODI < 16/hour (n=140)
Failed oximetry study (n=6)

≥3%ODI ≥ 16/hour Randomised into study (n=155)

Primary Care Arm (n=81)
Specialist Arm (n=74)

Withdrawals (n=17)
Intolerance to CPAP (n=8)
Study inconvenient (n=2)
Poor health (n=1)
Moved residence (n=1)
Reason unknown (n=5)

Completed 6 month follow-up (n=64)
Completed 6 month follow-up (n=68)

Patients analysed (n=81)†
Patients analysed (n=74)†

ESS = Epworth Sleepiness Scale; PCPs = primary care physicians; ≥3%ODI = 3% oxygen desaturation index

*The total number of patients initially screened by PCPs for eligibility is not known.
†Primary analysis was conducted in an intention-to-treat manner and missing values were replaced by multiple imputation.