

SWAT 258: Effects of active monitoring and rewards on the recruitment of underserved groups to a randomised trial

Objective of this SWAT

To assess the effect of active monitoring of screening and recruitment and site rewards on the recruitment of underserved groups to a randomised trial.

Additional SWAT Details

Primary Study Area: Recruitment

Secondary Study Area: EDI; Participant identification and consent; Sites and staff

Who does the SWAT intervention target: Healthcare Professionals; Research staff at recruiting sites

Estimated resources needed to conduct the SWAT: Low

Estimated cost of the SWAT (£): £5000

Findings from Implementation of this SWAT

Reference(s) to publications of these findings:

Primary Outcome Findings:

Cost:

Background

The Cochrane recruitment and retention reviews found little research into strategies targeting under-served groups and the limited evidence that is available is methodologically poor.[1,2] However, greater inclusion of under-served populations is a National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategic priority and meeting this need will require evidence of the effects of strategies that might be used. This Study Within a Trial SWAT [3] will assess the effect of active monitoring of screening and recruitment and site rewards on the recruitment of underserved groups to the COMBAT randomised trial (ISRCTN13728688).

Host Trial Population: Adults

Host Trial Condition Area: Vision

Interventions and Comparators

Intervention 1: We will inform sites at their site initiation visit that we are monitoring recruitment to underserved groups and will offer rewards to the best performing site teams over the recruitment period. Since the recruitment target for each site is low (0.5 per month), we will reward sites on the basis of two broad underserved groups: non-white and low-socioeconomic status. Socio-economic status will be estimated using a combination of employment status and education level.

Method for Allocating to Intervention or Comparator: Observation

Outcome Measures

Primary Outcomes: Site performance for non-white and low socio-economic status recruitment, calculated as a ratio:

Proportion recruited [number recruited/number screened] / Proportion not-recruited [number not recruited/number screened]

Secondary Outcomes:

Analysis Plans

A detailed analysis plan will be written before the lock of the screening and clinical databases.

Possible Problems in Implementing This SWAT

The data relating to the number of people in an underserved group not recruited/number screened required for calculating the primary outcome will come from a demographic background questionnaire given to patients approached at the pre-screening stage. Since these patients will not yet have consented to the host trial, they may not complete the questionnaire.

References Cited in This Outline

1. Treweek S, Pitkethly M, Cook J, Fraser C, Mitchell E, Sullivan F, et al. Strategies to improve recruitment to randomised trials. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2018;(2):MR000013.
2. Gillies K, Kearney A, Keenan C, Treweek S, Hudson J, Brueton VC, et al. Strategies to improve retention in randomised trials. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2021;(3):MR000032.
3. Treweek S, Bevan S, Bower P, Campbell M, Christie J, Clarke M, et al. Trial Forge Guidance 1: what is a Study Within A Trial (SWAT)? Trials 2018;19:139.

References to This SWAT

Source of This SWAT

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Revisions made by:

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