

SWAT 260: Stakeholder assessment of summary formats for clinical trial dissemination

Objective of this SWAT

To compare different formats of summarising the results of a randomised trial and evaluate how well various stakeholder groups understand them, as well as the potential impact these summaries may have.

Additional SWAT Details

Primary Study Area: Dissemination

Secondary Study Area:

Who does the SWAT intervention target: Healthcare Professionals; Participants

Estimated resources needed to conduct the SWAT: Low

Estimated cost of the SWAT (£):

Findings from Implementation of this SWAT

Reference(s) to publications of these findings:

Primary Outcome Findings:

Cost:

Background

Most Studies Within a Trial (SWATs) [1] have focused on improving recruitment and retention in randomised trials, helping ensure studies deliver robust and reliable evidence on time and within budget. The information gained from these SWATs can enhance how large numbers of patients are approached about taking part in research. However, this SWAT, embedded in the DAME randomised trial (ISRCTN12693443), takes a novel direction by targeting how results of randomised trials are communicated to the much wider audience of patients, practitioners, and policy makers who may use these findings in future decision-making. This responds to priorities identified by the Trial Forge SWAT network and addresses a gap highlighted in a recent categorisation of nearly 200 existing SWATs in the SWAT repository.

In this SWAT, a range of summaries of the DAME results will be prepared and evaluated with multiple stakeholder groups to assess understanding and potential impact. Findings will guide dissemination plans for DAME and provide evidence to inform dissemination approaches in future trials. Summary formats will be selected when DAME results and implications are known. They may include plain language summaries (including variations informed by issues identified by Shiely and Daly [2]), scientific summaries, short abstracts, infographics, and podcasts and animated videos and their associated scripts.

We will use methods adapted from a Study Within A Review (SWAR) to test different summaries for a systematic review.[3]

Host Trial Population: Adults

Host Trial Condition Area: Vision

Interventions and Comparators

Intervention 1: Summary formats will be selected when DAME results and implications are known, but may include: plain language summaries, scientific summaries, short abstracts, infographics, and podcasts and animated videos and their associated scripts.

Method for Allocating to Intervention or Comparator:

Outcome Measures

Primary Outcomes: Understanding and preference measured using a bespoke questionnaire.

Secondary Outcomes:

Analysis Plans

A detailed analysis plan will be written following decisions about which interventions to compare and before the lock of the data.

Possible Problems in Implementing This SWAT

We may have difficulty accessing and engaging with a range of stakeholders.

References Cited in This Outline

1. 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.
2. Shiely F, Daly A. Trial lay summaries were not fit for purpose. *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology* 2023;156:105-12.
3. Maguire LK, Clarke M. How much do you need: a randomised experiment of whether readers can understand the key messages from summaries of Cochrane Reviews without reading the full review. *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine* 2014;107(11):444-9.

References to This SWAT

Source of This SWAT

People to show as the source of this idea: Mike Clarke, Noemi Lois, Ashley Agus

Contact email address: DAME@nictu.hscni.net

Date of idea: 01/09/2023

Revisions made by:

Date of revisions: