

SWAT 6: Using a limited number of practitioners to recruit participants to a multicentre randomized trial

Objective of this SWAT

To assess the effects on recruitment of having different number of recruiters discussing a trial with potential participants in each site in a multicentre randomized trial.

Study area: Recruitment.

Sample type: Participants; Trial team; Healthcare professionals.

Estimated funding level needed: None.

Background

A key challenge in doing multicentre trials is that there is significant uncertainty about the best way to ensure good recruitment rates at different sites. Maintaining the interest of those responsible for recruiting participants can be a significant challenge and can slow the recruitment of new participants. This may be a particular problem in a busy healthcare setting where practitioners have been asked to take on the role of recruiting participants in addition to their already difficult workload. A potential solution to this problem may be to identify a limited number of recruiters to concentrate on this role rather than trying to engage all the practitioners in the setting in this task.

Interventions and comparators

Intervention 1: A subset of the practitioners at a site are responsible for recruitment.

Intervention 2: All the practitioners at a site are responsible for recruitment.

Index Type: Method of Recruitment

Method for allocating to intervention or comparator

Randomisation.

Outcome measures

Primary outcomes: Number (and proportion from the eligible population) of participants who are recruited at each site.

Secondary outcomes: Satisfaction among the identified recruiters and other practitioners at a site, and satisfaction among the potential participants (recruited and not recruited) with the way in which the trial was discussed with them.

Analysis plans

The primary analysis will be a comparison of recruitment at the different sites. Recruitment can be measured in absolute terms (eg, the number of participants recruited) or in relative terms (eg, the proportion of eligible participants recruited).

Possible problems in implementing this SWAT

It may be difficult to convince a limited number of practitioners to take on a role that is additional to their clinical role, rather than sharing it around all practitioners in a site.

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