**SWAT 111: Staff training to improve participant recruitment into surgical randomised trials**

**Objective of this SWAT**
To evaluate the feasibility of undertaking a SWAT of a recruitment training intervention for staff recruiting participants into surgical trials, across multiple host trials, to answer:
1. Can we recruit multiple surgical host trials to undertake the training SWAT simultaneously?
2. Can we enrol recruiting staff to the SWAT and follow them up?
3. Are recruiting staff in the intervention group likely to attend the face-to-face training course?
4. Is the training intervention acceptable?
5. Does the training impact staff confidence with RCT recruitment?
6. Can we collect recruitment data?
7. What is the likely impact of the training on recruitment rates?

**Study area:** Recruitment  
**Sample type:** Participants  
**Estimated funding level needed:** Medium

**Background**
Fewer than 50% of randomised trials recruit to target and those evaluating surgical interventions are especially challenging. Training trial recruiters was identified as the top priority topic for recruitment research by the Directors of UK Clinical Trials Units, but there is very limited evidence-based training for staff recruiting patients into surgical trials.[1,2]

The University of Bristol's Qualitative research integrated within Trials (QuinteT) team[3,4] have developed a one-day ConDuCT-II training course for staff recruiting into surgical trials. This training looks promising for increasing confidence with recruitment, raising awareness of hidden challenges, and impacting positively on recruitment practice[5]. To test the intervention, surgical trials recruiting participants will be invited to be host trials. Site staff (surgeons, nurses and allied health professionals) recruiting participants to the host trials in hospitals will be asked about their interest in attending a training workshop.

This SWAT is funded by the PROMoting THE USE of SWATs (PROMETHEUS) programme (Medical Research Council Grant number MR/R013748/1 (www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/research/trials/research/swats/prometheus/).

**Interventions and comparators**
**Intervention 1:** Offer of face-to-face training, provision of a ‘key tips’ document for optimising recruitment into surgical RCTs, and a link to an online recruiter training video (GRANULE - GeneRAtiNg StUdent Recruiters for Surgical TriaLs,) also developed by QuinteT team in collaboration with the University of Birmingham.

**Intervention 2:** No special training (i.e. continued usual recruitment practice; control group).

**Method for allocating to intervention or comparator**
Randomisation

**Outcome measures**
**Primary:** Recruitment of multiple surgical host trials simultaneously  
**Secondary:** Percentage of staff randomised; numbers of staff attending recruitment training; acceptability of the training workshop; staff confidence in recruiting; collection of screening and recruitment data; and recruitment rate

**Analysis plans**
Baseline data will be reported descriptively by SWAT group, using counts and percentages for categorical data, and mean and standard deviation for continuous data. The paired t-test will be used to compare pre- and post-training workshop responses, and two sample t-tests will be used
to compare the change in response from baseline to follow-up between the two groups. Recruitment rate will be compared using linear regression, adjusting for host trial.

Possible problems in implementing this SWAT
This SWAT needs clear coordination across multiple host trials. It may not be possible to recruit host trials. Staff may not attend the training course.

References


Publications or presentations of this SWAT design
Parker A. Staff training to improve participant recruitment into surgical randomised controlled trials: a feasibility study embedded within four randomised controlled trials. 5th International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference, Brighton, UK. 6-9 October 2019.

Examples of the implementation of this SWAT
People to show as the source of this idea: Dr Adwoa Parker, Dr Nicola Mills, Dr Leila Rooshenas, Dr Marcus Jepson, Prof Jenny Donovan, Mrs Catherine Arundel, Miss Elizabeth Coleman, Mrs Laura Clark, Miss Laura Doherty, Prof Catherine Hewitt, Prof David Torgerson
Contact email address: prometheus-group@york.ac.uk
Date of idea: 1/JAN/2018
Revisions made by:
Date of revisions: