MRC-NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership: Webinar recording

Informed Consent Complexities and Ways Forward: Methodological Work From Around the Globe

Presented, on behalf of the Global Health Network, by:
Elizabeth Allen (Global Health WG TMRP & Partnerships, the Global Health Network)
Kerry Hood (UKCRC Registered Centre for Trials Research, Cardiff University)
Victoria Shepherd (Cardiff University)
Amy Russell (University of Leeds)
Julia Wade (University of Bristol)
Tanya Symons (Clinical Trials Consultant, T Symons Associates PTY LTD)
Tsaone Tamuhla (South African National Bioinformatics Institute)

27 March 2023

The slides are available below.

For any queries, please contact uktmn@nottingham.ac.uk

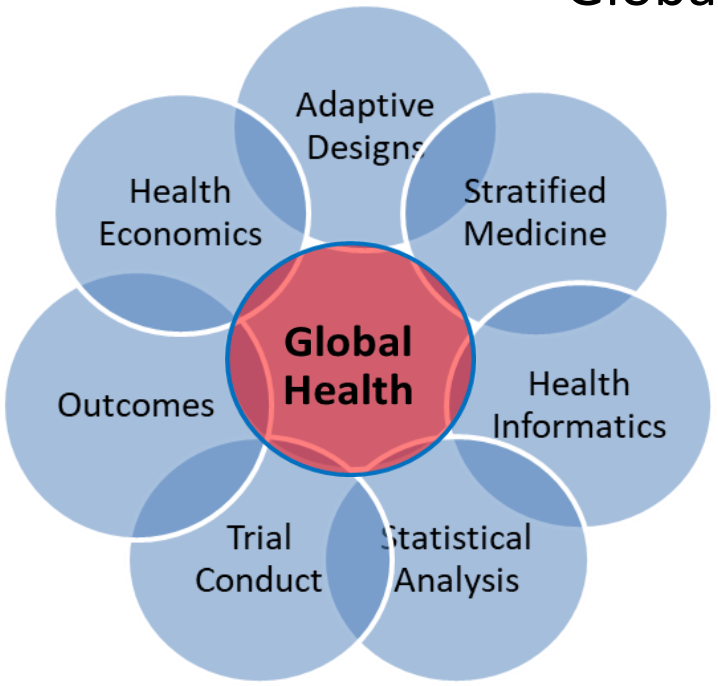
https://youtu.be/Epm2TL0Oank

Trials Methodology Research Partnership

Webinar series: UK Trial Managers' Network

Informed consent complexities and ways forward: methodological work from around the globe

Global Health and Trial Conduct Working Groups



https://www.methodologyhubs.mrc.ac.uk/

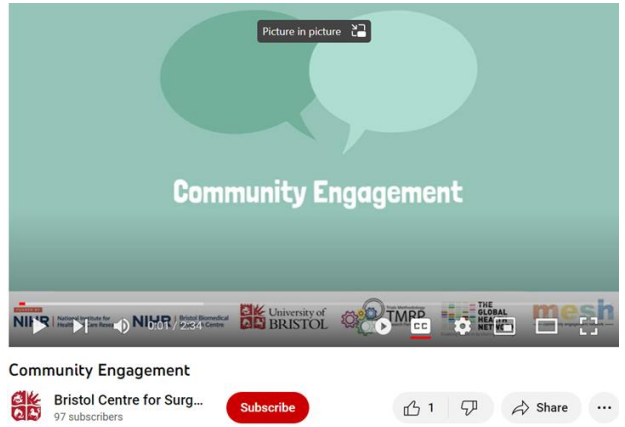
https://tghn.org/

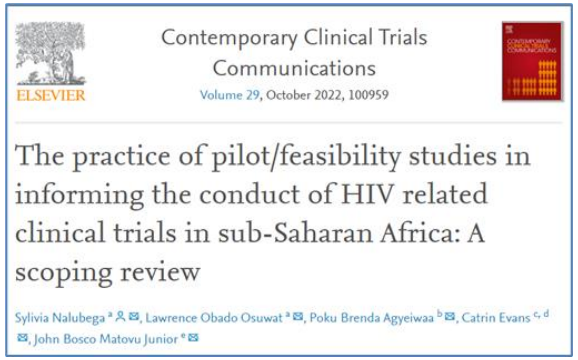
Trials Methodology TMRP Research Partnership

MRC Medical Research Council | NIHR National Institute for Health Research | LSTM | University of Oxford | The Global Health Network | UKTMN Trial Managers' Network

Global Health Working Group

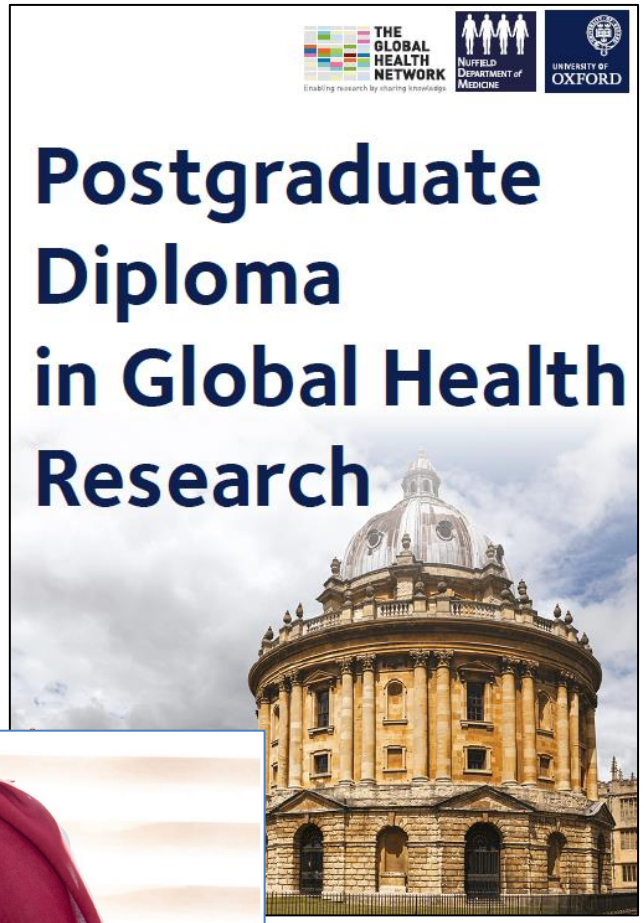
- **Raising awareness & supporting methodology researchers in LMICs**
  - Small project grants
  - Attendance at International Clinical Trials Methodology conferences





EDCTP

Tenth EDCTP Forum
Equity in research for health
17-21 October 2021, Maputo, Mozambique & virtual



Strengthening clinical trials to provide high-quality evidence on health interventions and to improve research quality and coordination

Implementation of the resolution on clinical trials WHA 75.8

TMRP Trial Conduct Working Group

- Develop research ideas/projects
- Identify need for practical guidance
- Develop applications for funding
- Support each other's research projects
- Propose activities for dissemination & awareness creation

Trials Methodology TMRP Research Partnership

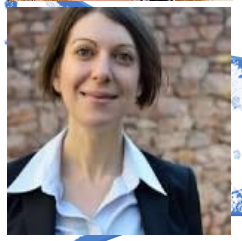
MRC Medical Research Council

NIHR | National Institute for Health Research

Examples of funded projects

Recruitment and Retention Sub-group
Using Machine Learning with user feedback to improve ORRCA
Anna Kearney

Communication Sub-group
Understanding the language and complexity of informed consent in clinical trials and identifying participant preferences for key trial processes
Frances Shiely



Beyond "must speak English": In search of a fairer way to operationalise patient screening for language proficiency in trial recruitment
Talia Issacs

Qualitative Research in Trials Sub-group
Qualitative data sharing practices in clinical trials in the UK and Ireland: Towards the production of good practice guidance
Catherine Houghton

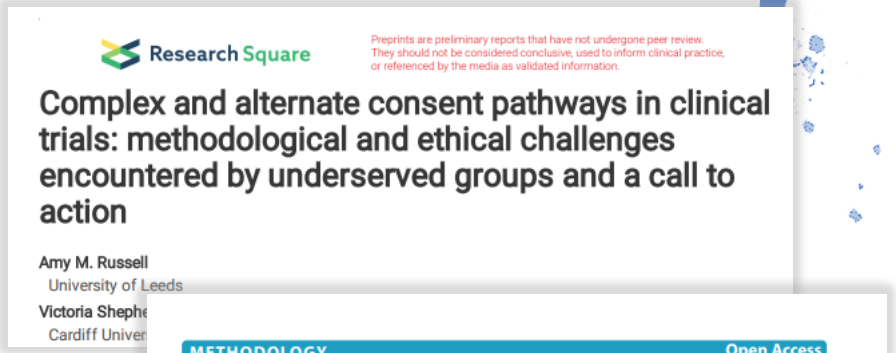
Inclusivity/Recruitment Sub-group
Minority ExpeRiences In Trials (MERIT): Understanding why ethnic minority groups are under-represented in trials through a rapid qualitative evidence synthesis, and mapping evidence to find solutions
Heidi Gardner

Cross-working group projects

- Qual Share
- e-Consent
- PILs for Adaptive designs

TCWG outputs

Publications


Research Square

Preprints are preliminary reports that have not undergone peer review. They should not be considered conclusive, used to inform clinical practice, or referenced by the media as validated information.

Complex and alternate consent pathways in clinical trials: methodological and ethical challenges encountered by underserved groups and a call to action

Amy M. Russell
University of Leeds
Victoria Shephe
Cardiff Univer


METHODOLOGY Open Access

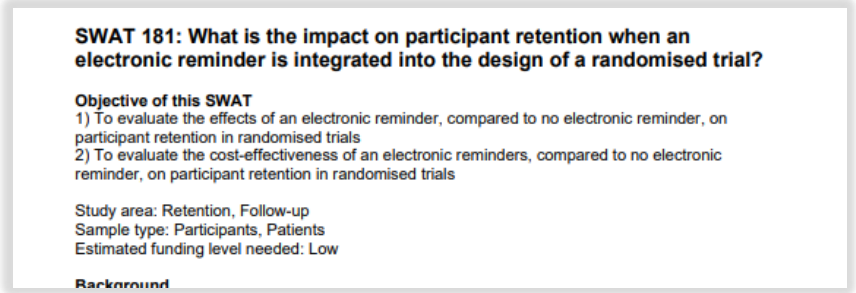
What is the purpose of clinical trial monitoring?

Sharon B. Love[1*], Victoria Yorke-Edwards[1], Elizabeth Ward[2], Rebecca Haydock[3], Katie Keen[4], Katie Biggs[5], Gosala Gopalakrishnan[6], Lucy Marsh[7], Lydia O'Sullivan[8], Lisa Fox[9], Estelle Payerne[10], Kerenza Hood[11] and Garry Meakin[3]

Abstract

Background: The sources of information on clinical trial monitoring do not give information in an accessible language and do not give detailed guidance. In order to enable communication and to build clinical trial monitoring tools on a strong easily communicated foundation, we identified the need to define monitoring in accessible

SWAT Protocols

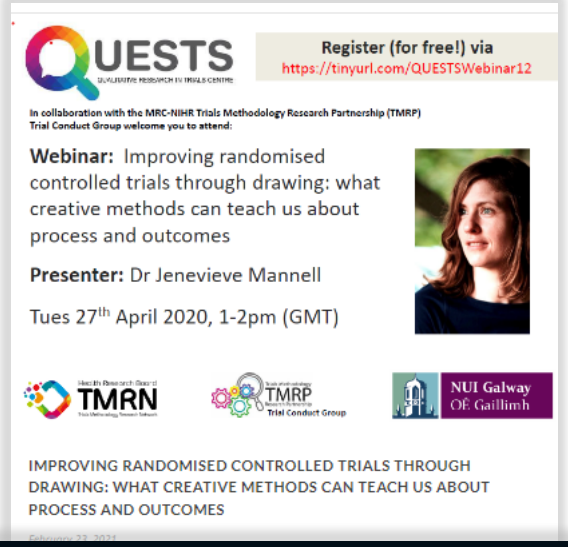

SWAT 181: What is the impact on participant retention when an electronic reminder is integrated into the design of a randomised trial?

Objective of this SWAT
1) To evaluate the effects of an electronic reminder, compared to no electronic reminder, on participant retention in randomised trials
2) To evaluate the cost-effectiveness of an electronic reminders, compared to no electronic reminder, on participant retention in randomised trials

Study area: Retention, Follow-up
Sample type: Participants, Patients
Estimated funding level needed: Low

Background

Webinars


QUESTS
QUALITATIVE RESEARCH IN TRIALS CENTRE

Register (for free!) via
https://tinyurl.com/QUESTSWebinar12

In collaboration with the MRC-NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership (TMRP) Trial Conduct Group welcome you to attend:

Webinar: Improving randomised controlled trials through drawing: what creative methods can teach us about process and outcomes

Presenter: Dr Jenevieve Mannell

Tues 27th April 2020, 1-2pm (GMT)

TMRN
TMRP Trial Conduct Group
NUI Galway OÉ Gaillimh

IMPROVING RANDOMISED CONTROLLED TRIALS THROUGH DRAWING: WHAT CREATIVE METHODS CAN TEACH US ABOUT PROCESS AND OUTCOMES

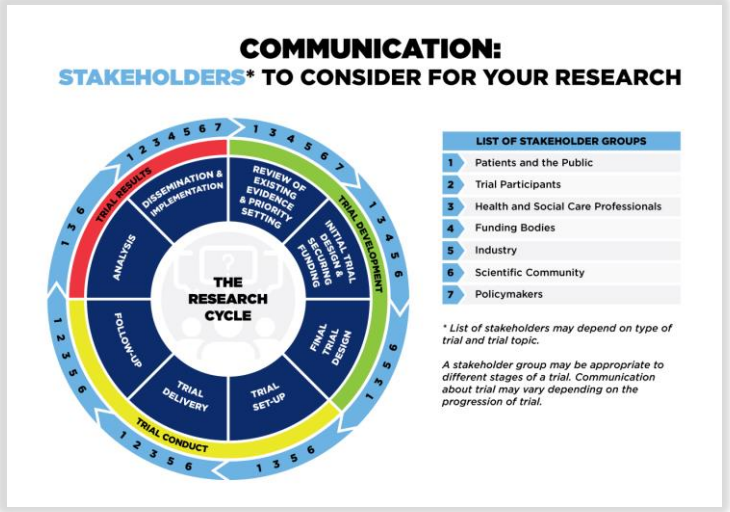

Introducing the INCLUDE Socioeconomic Disadvantage Framework

Join us as we introduce the new INCLUDE Framework, developed to support trial teams to design and conduct trials with and for people experiencing socioeconomic disadvantage.

When? Tuesday 24th January, 11am-1pm GMT
Register: https://bit.ly/3VtBOqg
Contact: sherratt@liverpool.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL
The University Of Sheffield.
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
Trials Methodology TMRP Research Partnership

Guidance


COMMUNICATION:
STAKEHOLDERS* TO CONSIDER FOR YOUR RESEARCH

LIST OF STAKEHOLDER GROUPS	
1	Patients and the Public
2	Trial Participants
3	Health and Social Care Professionals
4	Funding Bodies
5	Industry
6	Scientific Community
7	Policymakers

** List of stakeholders may depend on type of trial and trial topic.*

A stakeholder group may be appropriate to different stages of a trial. Communication about trial may vary depending on the progression of trial.

To join go to:

https://www.methodologyhubs.mrc.ac.uk/about/working-groups/

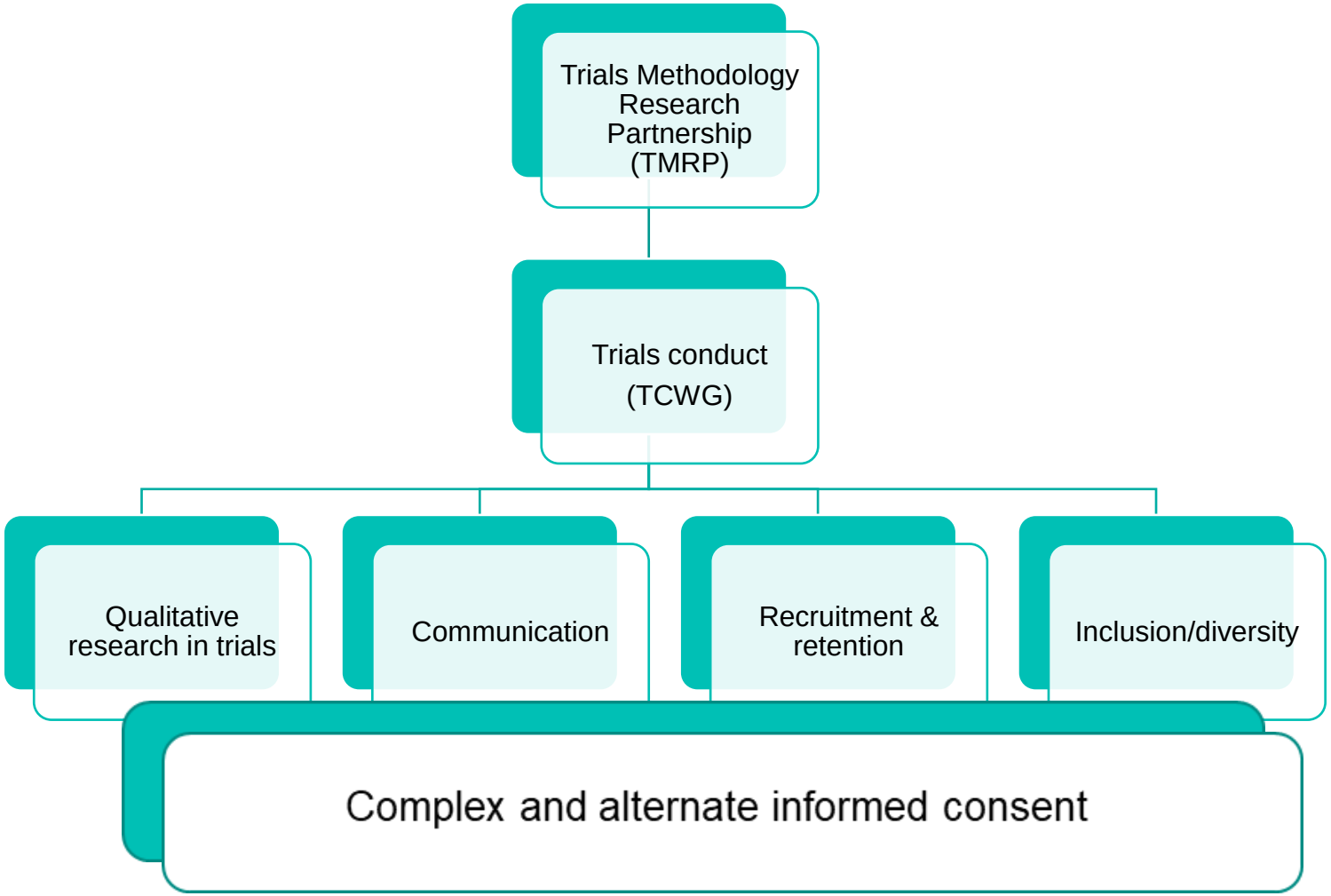
Informed consent: methodological work from around the globe

Complex and alternate consent pathways in clinical trials

Julia Wade, Amy M. Russell, Vicky Shepherd

Trials Methodology TMRP Research Partnership

Background


Trials Methodology Research Partnership (TMRP)
Trials conduct (TCWG)
Qualitative research in trials
Communication
Recruitment & retention
Inclusion/diversity
Complex and alternate informed consent

Background

Complex and alternate consent pathways within Trials research

- 23 members: trials methodology, healthcare professions, bioethics, qualitative research, social science
  - Adults with communication, hearing and sight disabilities
  - Adults whose capacity fluctuates or is lost during a trial
  - Adults who lack capacity
  - Adult and paediatric emergency and urgent care trials

Background

Complex and alternate consent pathways within Trials research

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Promoting interdisciplinary and cross-institutional collaboration to address ethically / methodologically challenging issues for consent to trials

MRC-NIHR Trials Methodology Research Partnership

Medical Research Council

Activities and outputs

- Map existing resources, publications and content experts
- Make existing resources readily available
- Paper describing current challenges and future research
- Identify topics for future research and funding bids


NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Home | Routemap | About this site | News | FAQs

You are in: Home » About this site » Recent changes

Recent changes

May 2022 - Further reading updated within the Informed Consent station.

November 2021 - Content update within the Informed Consent station.

Informed Consent (ct-toolkit.ac.uk)

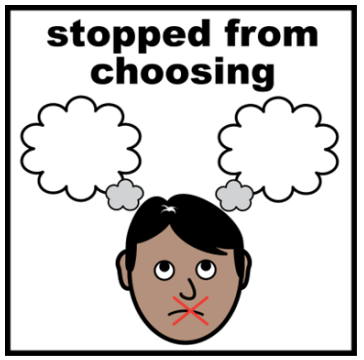

Russell et al. Trials (2023) 24:151
https://doi.org/10.1186/s13063-023-07159-6

Trials

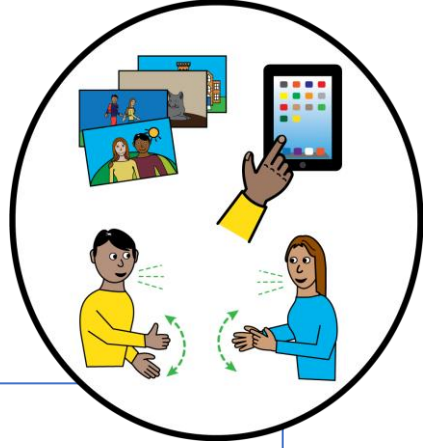
COMMENTARY Open Access

Complex and alternate consent pathways in clinical trials: methodological and ethical challenges encountered by underserved groups and a call to action

Amy M. Russell[1†], Victoria Shepherd[2*†], Kerry Woolfall[3], Bridget Young[3], Katie Gillies[4], Anna Volkmer[5], Mark Jayes[6], Richard Huxtable[7], Alexander Perkins[8], Nurulamin M. Noor[9], Beverley Nickolls[10] and Julia Wade[11]



Communication



- Stroke - Aphasia
- Visual impairment
- Hearing impairment
- D/deaf
- Learning disability
- Brain injury
- Dementia
- Progressive neurological conditions

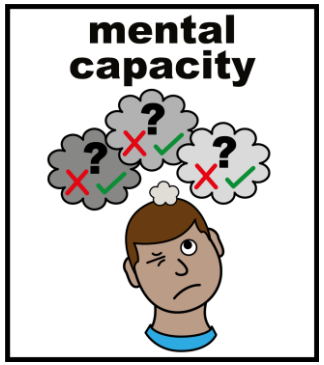
- Difficulties in accessing and understanding information
- Difficulties in communicating wishes
- Communication ability is interpreted as capacity

- Skills & confidence of recruiters
- Format of information
- Format to give & record consent
- Time & Cost

Fluctuating Capacity

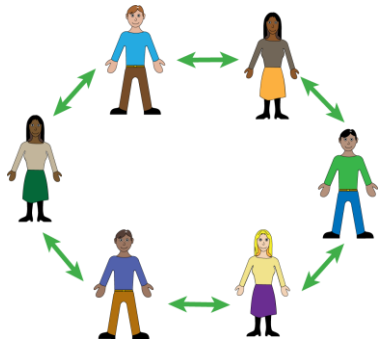
Causes

- Pain
- Medication effects
- Dementia
- Serious Mental Illness
- Learning disability
- Task specific



Challenges

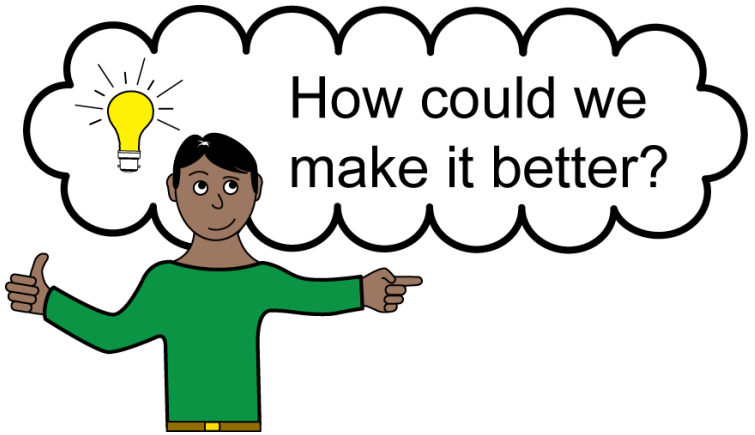
- Assumptions of fluctuating capacity
- Do our processes or environments exacerbate it?
- Retention & Exclusion
- Unfamiliarity with legislation
- Multi country trials subject to multiple legislation



Solutions

- Co-production:
  - Format of information, to express & record consent
  - Who takes consent?
  - Time of day
  - Environment
  - At what point in research?
  - Justify innovation in methods

- Reconceptualise consent - iterative & on-going not a one-off event
  - At what point should you revisit consent?
- Plan ahead – express wishes
- Design with INCLUDE frameworks
- Explore alternative formats
- Researcher/recruiter training
- Clear guidance
- https://www.capacityconsentresearch.com/



Adults lacking capacity to consent - challenges

- Gatekeeping – complexity of ethical and legal frameworks, paternalism
- Involvement of alternative decision-maker – personal or professional
- Identification, knowing preferences, lack of guidance, decisional/emotional burden
- REC approvals – justification for inclusion, issues with consistency/accuracy

Emergency trials in adults and children - challenges

- Additional consent complexities in time-critical trials - essential to avoid delays
- Parent/alternative decision-maker may not be present or may be distressed
- Research without prior consent (RWPC) may be permitted
- Jurisdictional differences, contextual/cultural factors
- Complexity of ‘middle ground’ cases

Methodological innovations

- Researchers - NIHR INCLUDE Impaired capacity to Consent Framework
- Families - decision aid being evaluated in CONSULT SWAT
- Individuals – exploring ‘advance research planning’
- Adult emergency research – Perspectives Study guidance, CoMiTED video on RWPC
- Paediatric and neonatal trials – CONNECT guidance
- Informing bereaved families in RWPC – ENHANCE

Conclusions

- Range of concrete outputs with ongoing research
- Identifying other work in complex consent pathways in trials
- Global issue with shared challenges and contextualised solutions
- Requires collaboration – call to action!

Trials Methodology TMRP Research Partnership

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Russell et al. Trials (2023) 24:151
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Trials

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https://bit.ly/2VMWsGx

Incorporating patient values and preferences into research consent

Tanya Symons, PhD
T Symons Associates Pty Ltd

Participant Information/Consent Forms (PICFs)

Random national sample of 248 interventional PICFs (without consent forms)

7/18

(Non-commercial/commercial)

11/13

(Flesch-Kincaid Grade Level/SMOG)

Anti-XX is <0.7/>1.0u/ml

ultrastructure

subcutaneous formulation

Correlative research

relational continuity

mediastinal mass

submaximal

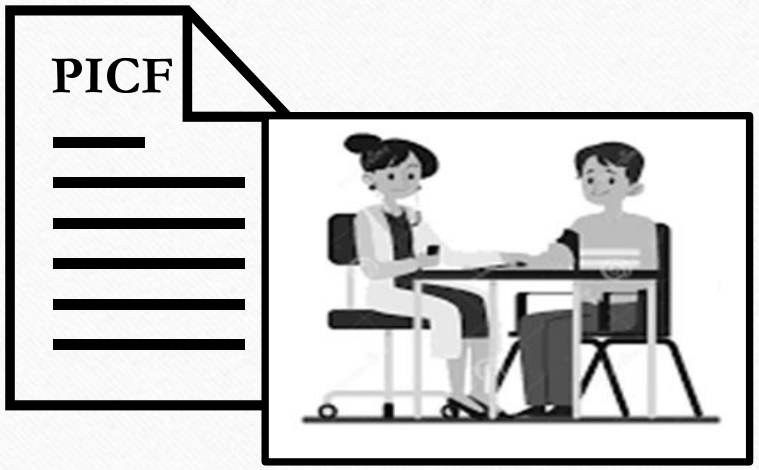
oxidative stress

free radical injury

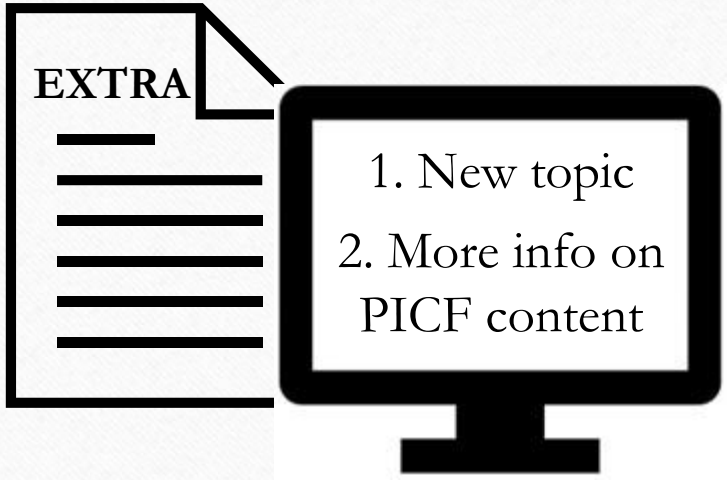
Symons T & Davis J. S. (2022). *Trials*, *23*(1), 794–794.

Layered (Integrated) Consent

UK's Health Research Authority Concept



A Concise PICF/Discussion



Optional Supplementary Information

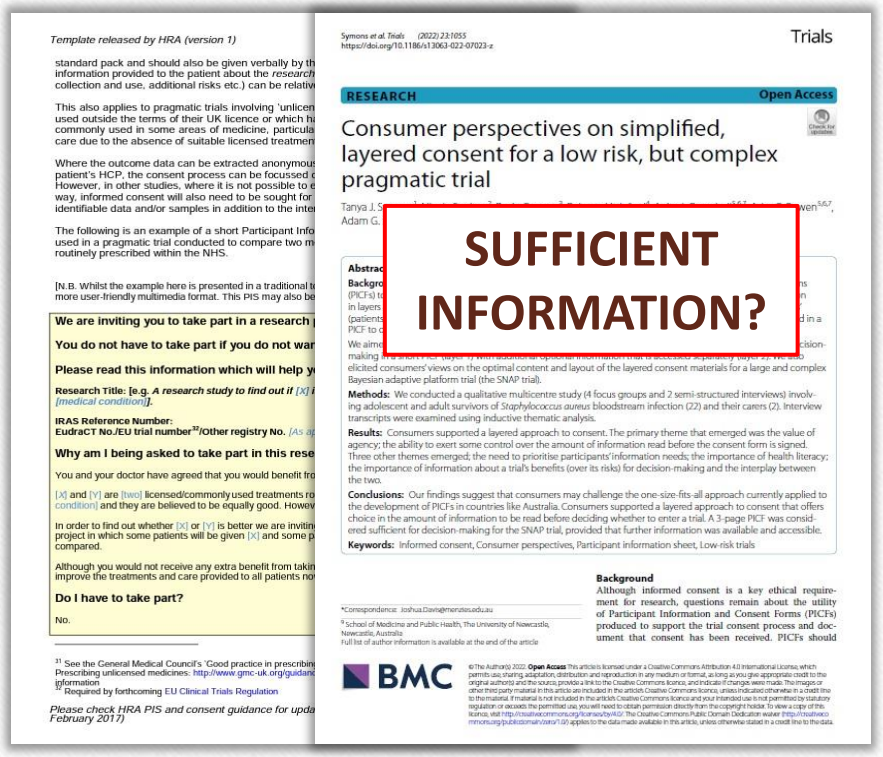
Simple, patient-centred PICFs

Focus groups tested UK ‘layered consent’

- SNAPCHAT: Low-risk trial (SNAP)
- InFORMed Project: Other risk levels

  Revised national template

- Publish the methods and materials for the focus (discussion) groups



MRC/HRA Online Tool

PICF with ‘sufficient information’

1. Nature[1] & dual purpose[2] of the research
2. Reasonably foreseeable discomforts or risks
3. Reasonably foreseeable benefits
4. Any available treatment alternatives
5. Research duration and impact[3]

[1] Including the voluntary nature of research

[2] For some research, the dual purpose (treatment and generalisable knowledge)

[3] How research alters what would have been experienced in clinical care

SNAP PICF - Inclusivity

Background to *Staph aureus* bloodstream infections

Learn more about why we're studying treatments for *S. aureus* bloodstream infections in the SNAP trial.

✓ SNAP Trial Resource

Read More

SNAP

Staphylococcus aureus
Network
Adaptive
Platform

Background to SNAP

Learn more about why we're studying treatments for *S. aureus* bloodstream infections in the SNAP trial.

✓ SNAP Trial Resource

Read More

Patient Pathway

What does taking part in SNAP mean for participants?

✓ SNAP Trial Resource

Read More

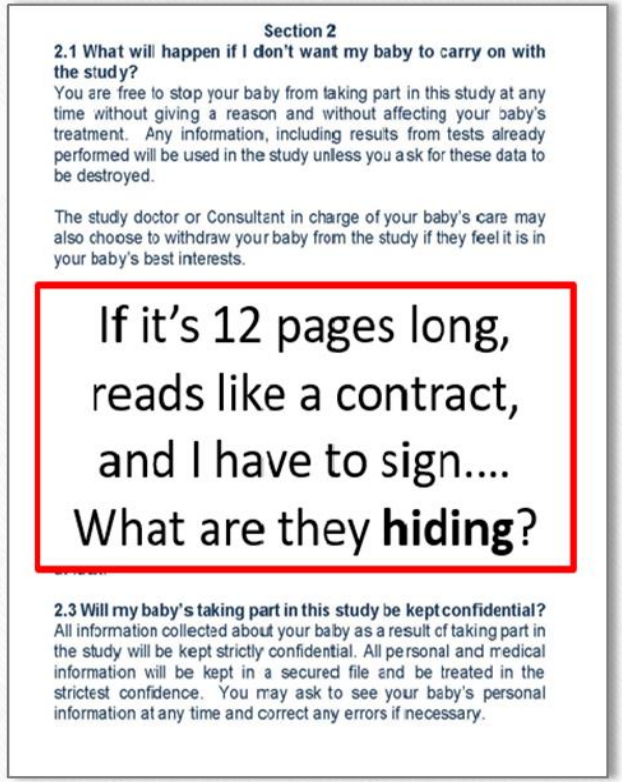
Ethics issues with long PICFs

The Nocebo Effect

*Some people may choose not to participate because **they're scared off**…*

*…people they might look at that and assume the survey itself is as complex as the form …**a bit of a turn-off**.*

One 42-page PICF had a 13-page risk section



Section 2

2.1 What will happen if I don't want my baby to carry on with the study?

You are free to stop your baby from taking part in this study at any time without giving a reason and without affecting your baby's treatment. Any information, including results from tests already performed will be used in the study unless you ask for these data to be destroyed.

The study doctor or Consultant in charge of your baby's care may also choose to withdraw your baby from the study if they feel it is in your baby's best interests.

If it's 12 pages long, reads like a contract, and I have to sign.... What are they **hiding**?

2.3 Will my baby's taking part in this study be kept confidential?

All information collected about your baby as a result of taking part in the study will be kept strictly confidential. All personal and medical information will be kept in a secured file and be treated in the strictest confidence. You may ask to see your baby's personal information at any time and correct any errors if necessary.

THANK YOU

A REDCap Template For Tiered Electronic Consent (e-consent) Framework

Tsaone Tamuhla
South African National Bioinformatics Institute
University of the Western Cape
South Africa

SANBI South African National Bioinformatics Institute

UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE

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UNIVERSITY of the WESTERN CAPE

Introduction

- Move from broad consent to tiered consent
- Shift to more collaborative research and data sharing among researchers
- Foster ethical use of biospecimens and data in research
- Ensure that participants give truly informed consent

Purpose of the framework

Designed to meet the needs of both participants and researchers by:

1. Providing a comprehensive list of information to include in the main consent and withdrawal of consent documents
2. Providing a use case example of human genomic research language that is easy for participants to understand

Framework design

- REDCap allows for the standardization of data capture tools in survey format
- We adapted the tiered consent model (Nembware et al., 2019) with some modifications
- No centralized collection of data
- Framework template can be downloaded and imported into REDCap (https://github.com/CIDRI-Africa/e-Consent-framework)

Benefits to participants

Why are we doing this study?

We want to study something called "genes". These "genes" are present in all of us and are the same in all parts of our bodies. "Genes" are sometimes also called DNA, which is the name of the material they are made from. Genes are responsible for why people in families are often more like each other, and different from other families. For example, some families are generally taller or shorter than others. This kind of information is passed from both the father and the mother to their children and on to their grandchildren, from one generation to the next. Some of these genes may prevent some people from getting certain illnesses. Other genes may be one of the reasons why some people get sick or have side effects from some medicines when others do not. We are still learning how genes might contribute to different diseases, and how they work together with our lifestyle and other factors - such as our environment or what we eat - to affect our health. We want to explore whether genes may affect (specific health phenotype under study) in (specific target population if relevant).

What do we do to decide if you are eligible to be take part?

In our study, we want to learn more about [specific disease phenotype] in [target study population] so we are approaching any person who fits this description because they are the type of people who we want in our study.

How many people will take part in the study?

There will [insert number] of participants including yourself if you agree to participate in the study.

Benefits to participants

Sometimes what we find from a study like this might lead to new studies being done in the future. Can other researchers contact you in the future to invite you to take part in other research studies?

◯ Yes ◯ No

If yes, how would you like to be contacted?

◯ Telephone
◯ Letter
◯ Visit
◯ Email

Can my samples and information be used in research outside the country?

There is an international study that is combining the results from [specify disease] studies like ours that are taking place around the world. The information from samples donated from everyone around the world will be made available to researchers in a large data storage resource in Europe called the European Genome Archive (EGA) and will be provided to other researchers who want to do more studies using the combined genetic and health information.

We will ask you if you would like your sample and health details to be included in this international study - you do not have to agree to join the international study, it is your choice.

Do you agree for us to share your DNA sample for genetic analysis together with your health information for International studies being done to better understand [specific disease]? Your genetic data and health data may be shared with other international researchers for other studies in the future

◯ Yes ◯ No

Benefits to researchers

- Data is captured directly without the need for transcription from paper to database
- Easier to identify consenting participants

Consent dashboard for diabetes

Search

PID pid	Event Name redcap_event_name	Study ID Number study_id_v2	Date of consent consent_date_v2	Do you agree for us to collect these body fluid samples and your he ... might affect type 2 diabetes? consent_data_collection_v2	We would like to know more about your general health. Do you agree ... its to health care facilities? consent_health_information_v2	Do you agree for us to use your medical record number to access your health information? consent_medical_record_number_v2	Sometimes, what we find from our research might include new informa ... y directly affect your health? consent_new_info_contact_v2	Would you like us to contact you again if there is some kind of act ... elp you with the health issue? consent_new_tx_contact_v2	Would you like us to contact you again if there is NO kind of actio ... elp you with the health issue? consent_no_tx_contact_v2	Sometimes researchers combine the genetic information from everyone ... al individuals in this study)? consent_grouped_data_v2	Do you agree for us to use your genetic samples together with your ... t of genes on type 2 diabetes? consent_samples_future_use_specific_pheno_v2	Do you agree for us to use your genetic samples together with your ... related biological processes? consent_samples_future_use_other_or_related_v2	Sometimes what we find from a study like this might lead to new stu ... art in other research studies? consent_future_research_contact_v2
214	Data collection (Arm 3: Diabetes example)	T2D_001	01-09-2021	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)	Yes (1)

SANBI South African National Bioinformatics Institute

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Benefits to researchers

Withdrawal of study consent

PID _____

Withdrawal of consent

Date _____

Do you wish to withdraw your consent to participate in the entire study or parts of the study?

- ◯ Complete withdrawal
- ◯ Partial withdrawal

Please state from which part(s) of the study you would like to withdraw your consent

Reason(s) for withdrawing consent

The participant is not obliged to give a reason, therefore if no reason is given type "none given"

Participant signature _____

Conclusion

Tamuhla *et al. BMC Medical Ethics* (2022) 23:119
https://doi.org/10.1186/s12910-022-00860-2

BMC Medical Ethics

DATABASE Open Access

An e-consent framework for tiered informed consent for human genomic research in the global south, implemented as a REDCap template

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https://github.com/CIDRI-Africa/e-Consent-framework