

ORRCA Ongoing Studies

Topic: Recruitment

Study Title: Factors associated with recruitment to randomised controlled trials in general practice: a systematic review

Abstract:

Background: Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are frequently unable to recruit sufficient numbers of participants. This affects the trial's ability to answer the proposed research question, wastes resources and can be unethical. RCTs within a general practice setting are increasingly common and similarly face recruitment challenges. The aim of the proposed review is to identify factors that are associated with recruitment to RCTs in a general practice setting. These results will be used in further research to predict recruitment to RCTs.

Methods: The electronic databases Medline, EMBASE, Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, NTIS and OpenGrey will be searched for relevant articles with no limit on the date of publication. BMC trials will be hand-searched for the past 5 years. Both quantitative and qualitative studies will be included that have studied recruitment within a general practice RCT. Only English language publications will be included. Screening, quality assessment and data extraction will be conducted by two review authors not blinded to study characteristics. Disagreement will be resolved with discussion and involvement of a third review author if required. A narrative synthesis of included studies will be performed.

Discussion: The review will, for the first time, systematically synthesise existing research on factors associated with recruitment to RCTs in general practice. This will be of interest to academics in identifying research gaps to be prioritised in further research. It will also be of value to clinical trialists in the complex task of improving trial recruitment. Our team will use the findings to inform a prediction model of trial recruitment using machine learning.

Systematic review registration: PROSPERO registration no: CRD42018100695

Keywords: recruitment, general practice, randomised controlled trial

Corresponding Investigator: Keith Moffat

Contact email: krm9@st-andrews.ac.uk

Collaborators: Professor Frank Sullivan Wen Shi Paul Cannon

Organisation: University of St Andrews

Stage of Work: Starting systematic review

Start Date: 20/08/2018

End Date: 28/02/2019

Comments: