



Health Research Board
TMRN
Trials Methodology Research Network

Abstract Template

Project title: Barriers and facilitators to recruitment to Randomised Controlled Trials (RCT) in Healthcare: A qualitative synthesis

Institution: School of Nursing and Midwifery, National University of Ireland, Galway

Project details (max 250 words)

Recruiting to randomised controlled trials (RCT) can be difficult (Treweek et al. 2010). The value of qualitative research in exploring how recruitment processes can be improved has been highlighted (Paramasivan et al. 2011, 2013). Qualitative evidence synthesis can bring together complex findings and present them in a way that can inform recruitment to RCTs.

The aim of this qualitative synthesis is to develop understanding of effective recruitment strategies by exploring recruiters' and potential participants' views and experiences of the recruitment process for participation in RCTs. The studies included will capture views and experiences of recruiters and potential participants about recruitment to RCTs, which will provide recommendations on effective recruitment strategies for future trials.

The review team includes researchers with a strong background in qualitative research, methodological and synthesis expertise. The evidence synthesis is currently being considered for the Cochrane Methodology Review Group. If accepted, the protocol will be developed over a period of approximately six months. Following that, the search, screening, quality appraisal and framework synthesis will be conducted. The student involved in this evidence synthesis will be involved in all aspects of protocol preparation, which will provide exposure to the different stages of the synthesis process. In addition, the student will be involved in searching, screening and management of these processes using relevant software (EndNote and Covidence).

Project Contact Person Name: Dr Catherine Houghton, Lecturer, School of Nursing and Midwifery

Project Contact Email Address: catherine.houghton@nuigalway.ie

Institution Lead: Prof Declan Devane