



Project title: Surveying knowledge, current practice and attitudes towards intervention fidelity practices within randomised trials in healthcare

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Project details (max 250 words)

Intervention fidelity refers to the degree to which an intervention is implemented as intended by its developers,¹ or the methodological strategies and practices used to assess (e.g. self-report checklists) and enhance (e.g. intervention manuals) the reliability and validity of interventions.² Without adequate assessment and reporting of fidelity, we cannot be certain that changes in study outcomes are due to the influence of the intervention being investigated and not due to variability in its implementation.³ This can lead to potentially effective interventions being discarded, or ineffective interventions being reproduced, wasting precious research resources.

Despite its crucial importance, countless reviews spanning over 20 years have shown that fidelity continues to be poorly assessed and reported in clinical trials across multiple disciplines.³⁻⁵ The reasons for this have been poorly investigated, and information regarding current fidelity practices within clinical trials in Ireland remains insufficient.

This project aims to survey the current knowledge, practice and attitudes towards intervention fidelity practices (e.g. methods to enhance, assess and report fidelity) amongst researchers, policymakers and practitioners across Ireland who are, or have been, directly involved in designing and/or conducting randomised healthcare trials.

The survey will promote awareness of intervention fidelity among those involved in healthcare RCTs, as well as providing valuable information on the current knowledge and use of fidelity methods in Ireland. Results will help identify barriers and enablers towards use of fidelity practices within RCTs, provide information for researchers developing clinical trials and help shape future training needs within Ireland for research networks such as QUESTS or HRB-TMRN.

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References

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