



Abstract Template

Project title:

Patients' perspectives on what trialists should communicate to them when being invited to participate in a randomised trial.

Institution: University College Cork

Project details (max 250 words)

We know that many trials fail because they don't recruit enough participants. In fact, evidence suggests that less than 50% meet their recruitment target (1). The recent PRioRiT_y study publication identified and prioritised twenty key unanswered trial recruitment questions, using a methodologically rigorous process (2). The second highest priority, was "what information should trialists communicate to members of the public who are being invited to take part in a randomised trial in order to improve recruitment to the trial?" The purpose of our study is to answer this question using qualitative methods. We propose to conduct semi-structured interviews with 30-35 patients in 8-10 randomised trials currently running in Cork University Hospital. Patients will be invited to participate in the interview, before they are approached to be recruited by the research nurse, or given any information on the trial, to prevent biasing their answers. Our principal aim is to establish what information the patient might expect to be given, when being recruited to a randomised trial. Interviews will be transcribed and analysed using NVivo software. We will use thematic analysis to identify the priority patient seeking information. We will also rank the identified themes/areas, according to the greatest number of times mentioned by patients. We will publish our findings in an open access journal, *Trials*. This study will assist the design of the information sheet and thus the informed consent process in randomised trials. It will also assist the conduct of trials, as it will potentially increase recruitment into the trial.

Project Contact Person Name: Dr Frances Shiely

Project Contact Email Address: f.shiely@ucc.ie

Institution Lead: Dr Frances Shiely [Ethics will be required].

References:

1. Gardner HR, Fraser C, MacLennan G, Treweek S. A protocol for a systematic review of non-randomised evaluations of strategies to improve participant recruitment to randomised controlled trials. *Systematic reviews*. 2016;5(1):131.
2. Healy P, Galvin S, Williamson PR, Treweek S, Whiting C, Maeso B, et al. Identifying trial recruitment uncertainties using a James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership—the PRioRiT_y (Prioritising Recruitment in Randomised Trials) study. *Trials*. 2018;19(1):147.