

POSTER PRESENTATION

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Developing a patient and public involvement intervention to enhance recruitment and retention in surgical trials (PIRRIST): study protocol

Joanna Crocker^{1,2*}, Sian Rees¹, Louise Locock^{2,3}, Sophie Petit-Zeman⁴, Alan Chant⁵, Shaun Treweek⁶, Jonathan Cook^{7,8}, Nicola Farrar⁷, Kerry Woolfall⁹, Richard Bulbulia¹⁰

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Background and aims

Slow recruitment and poor retention are common challenges to the successful delivery of clinical trials, particularly surgical trials. Patient and public involvement (PPI) in designing and conducting clinical trials has the potential to enhance recruitment and retention but there have been few attempts at rigorous evaluation. The aim of PIRRIST is to develop a PPI intervention that improves recruitment and/or retention in surgical trials.

Methods

The study comprises four stages, beginning in July 2015: (1) Mapping current PPI practice in UK surgical trials through a survey and analysis of National Research Ethics Service data; (2) Focus groups with key stakeholders (patients or members of the public involved in surgical trials, surgical trial investigators, administrators and PPI co-ordinators) to explore their needs, the challenges associated with PPI and how PPI might support recruitment and retention; (3) A survey of key stakeholders' views about the possible components of one or more potential PPI interventions; (4) A consensus workshop with a broad, purposive sample of stakeholders to select the PPI intervention that we put forward for future evaluation.

Outcomes

This study will lead to a robust, evidence-based PPI intervention ready for evaluation. Although tailored to surgical trials, the findings will enhance understanding of whether and how PPI might improve recruitment and retention in clinical trials.

The study is part of the Trial Forge initiative to improve trial efficiency.

Authors' details

¹Health Experiences Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. ²NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, Oxford, UK. ³Health Experiences Research Group, Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. ⁴NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre and Unit, Oxford, UK. ⁵Patient Representative, Berkshire, UK. ⁶Health Services Research Unit, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, UK. ⁷Surgical Intervention Trials Unit, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK. ⁸MRC ConDuCT-II Hub for Trials Methodology Research, School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK. ⁹MRC North West Hub for Trials Methodology Research, Institute of Psychology, Health and Society, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK. ¹⁰MRC CTSU Hub for Trials Methodology Research, Clinical Trial Service Unit, Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK.

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¹Health Experiences Institute, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
Full list of author information is available at the end of the article