

SWAT 80: Post-it Note SWAT

Objective of this SWAT

To assess the effect on completion of enclosing a personalised post-it note with a follow up questionnaire.

Study area: Follow-up

Sample type: Participants

Estimated funding level needed:

Background

Retention and completion of follow up is a constant challenge for randomised trials.[1-4] Recently, there have been many ideas and moves to improve retention and follow-up rates, with ideas including enclosing pens with the questionnaires, texting reminders to participants, creating e-PROMS, and many more.

Traditionally, follow up questionnaires have been issued with a formal covering letter, approved by the relevant Ethics Committee. This SWAT will assess whether personalising the follow up, letting the patients know there is another person sending and receiving their questionnaires, may encourage the participant to complete them.

Interventions and comparators

Intervention 1: Personalised Post-it note.

Intervention 2: No Personalised Post-it note.

Index Type: Incentive

Method for allocating to intervention or comparator

Alternate - participants with odd numbers will receive the note, participants with even numbers will not.

Outcome measures

Primary: Completion of questionnaire.

Secondary:

Analysis plans

Descriptive analysis will be used to assess the proportion of participants who returned their questionnaire and compare these proportions between the groups.

Possible problems in implementing this SWAT

Small numbers (only 100 patients in the host trial).

References

1. Brueton VC Tierney J, Stenning S, et al. Strategies to improve retention in randomised trials. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews 2013;(12):MR000032.
2. Tudor Smith C, Hickey H, Clarke M, et al. The trials methodological research agenda: results from a priority setting exercises. Trials 2014;15:32.
3. Kearney A, Daykin A, Shaw ARG, Lane AG, Blazeby JM, Clarke M, Williamson P, Gamble C. Identifying effective retention strategies: a research agenda. Trials 2017;18:406.
4. Daykin A, Clement C, Gamble C, et al. 'Recruitment, recruitment, recruitment' – the need for more focus on retention: a qualitative study of five trials. Trials 2018;19:76.

Publications or presentations of this SWAT design

Examples of the implementation of this SWAT

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Revisions made by:

Date of revisions: