



Promoting the use of SWATs (PROMETHEUS): Peer review assessment form

Reviewer name: _____

Host trial name: _____



Rating of applications received

- 1 = recommend funding
- 2 = recommend funding subject to changes and clarifications
- 3 = do not recommend funding

Reviewer's rating: _____

Reviewers' comments (Maximum 250 words):

Reviewer's signature: _____

DATE: __ / __ / ____



Guidance notes for reviewers

Please consider the following when undertaking the peer review:

1. Eligibility

To be eligible, host trials will be:

- Registered or eligible for registration on the UK Clinical Research Network Portfolio.
- In the planning phase, be in the process of applying for ethics permission, or recruiting or following up participants.
- Willing to apply for ethics permission or amendment to undertake at least one SWAT of a recruitment or retention intervention.
- Willing to randomise and deliver the recruitment or retention intervention according to a shared protocol and share data with the MRC SWATS team and help to write up findings for publication.
- Willing to use or register their SWAT on the [MRC-HTMR All-Ireland Hub](#) website, if the intervention being evaluated is not already registered.

2. Priority and scientific quality:

- Appropriateness of the research design.
- Appropriateness of the research methods.
- Feasibility of the proposed SWAT (including recruitment and retention of participants, project timeline, etc.).
- Does/do the proposed interventions(s) match our current list of key questions (below). If SWAT intervention(s) are not currently on the list, or do you deem the SWAT will make a useful contribution to the evidence base?

Table 1: List of key recruitment and retention questions

Recruitment questions

HIGH PRIORITY QUESTIONS		
Recruitment interventions	Host trials testing or planning testing	Rationale
What is the effect of adding a pen printed with the trial/university logo to the trial invitation on recruitment rates (SWAT 37)?	MSS3, OTIS	Existing data; matches Priority no. 6 from the PRioRiTy top 10
SWAT 53: including a generic doctor-patient photograph on the invitation letter for a prospective study.	CLEAR	Matches Priority no. 2 from the PRioRiTy top 10
MEDIUM PRIORITY QUESTIONS		
What is the effectiveness of a brief participant information leaflet (PIL) versus standard length PIL on participant recruitment rates?	MSS3; IBD BOOST	Existing data; matches Priority no. 2 from the PRioRiTy top 10. [six host trials already]

What is the effect of offering financial incentives to potential trial participants on recruitment rates? (SWAT 59)	VITA, [Gentle years yoga]	Prioritised by Cochrane recruitment review; Existing data; matches Priority no. 17 from the PRioRiTy top 20. [<i>Not highest priority because there are 8 studies altogether and we will probably have enough data</i>]
What is the effect of a personalised invitation letter on recruitment rates?	ENGAGE	No interest from trial teams to date
LOW PRIORITY QUESTIONS		
What is the impact of a training workshop for staff recruiting patients into trials on recruitment rates?	DISC; PROFHER 2; IntAct; START:REACTS	Matches Priority no. 2 from the PRioRiTy top 10. Currently in follow-up. [<i>We have done this SWAT, hence low priority</i>].
Does the format of the participant information sheet affect the recruitment rate into an interventional trial?	SARC	No interest from other trial teams to date
A variation of SWAT 3, which will explore generic versus personal wet signature on invitation letters.	CLEAR	No interest from other trial teams to date
What is the effect of a handwritten versus printed name on invitation letters on recruitment rates?	OTIS	No interest from other trial teams to date
What is the effectiveness of telephoning people who do not respond to a postal invitation on recruitment to randomised trials? (SWAT 61)	NONE	Prioritised by Cochrane recruitment review; Existing data. However, no interest from other trial teams to date
What is the impact of recruitment sites receiving an extra trial co-ordinator visit on recruitment rates? (SWAT 27)	NONE	No interest from other trial teams to date
What is the effect of mentioning scarcity of trial places in invitation letters on recruitment of trial participants? (SWAT 60)	NONE	No interest from other trial teams to date

Retention questions

Retention Interventions	Host trials testing or planning testing	Rationale
HIGH PRIORITY QUESTIONS		
Do courtesy telephone calls to trial participants following enrolment increase future retention rates?	ARTISAN; L1FE	Existing data; matches Priorities no. 4, 8 and 9 from the PRioRiT y 2 top 10
Sending Christmas cards to trial participants to improve retention. (SWAT 82)	ACTIVE; ASICA; C-GALL; CPIT III; DISC; FAME; FUTURE; GYY; L1FE; OSTRICH; PROFHER-2; PUrE RCT; ProtectT; REFLECT; SWHSI-2	Matches Priorities no. 8 and 9 from the PRioRiT y 2 top 10
What is the effectiveness of a theoretically informed cover letter on improving response rates to annual postal questionnaires? (SWAT 24)	(COMICS)	Existing data (5 SWATs being done in Edinburgh)
What is the effect of a text message notification versus no text message on questionnaire response rates? (SWAT 25/SWAT 31)	(COMICS)	Existing data; matches Priorities no. 4 and 6 from the PRioRiT y 2 top 10.
What is the effectiveness of a personalised text message versus a standard text message for promoting response to postal follow-up questionnaires? (SWAT 35)	MAGIC, KReBS, GRASP; MIQUIT, OTIS; CHAMP-1	matches Priorities no. 4 and 6 from the PRioRiT y 2 top 10; Likely to be able to answer the question within timeframe of PROMETHEUS
What is the effectiveness of sending pre-notification cards to trial participants 1-month before outcome measurement to improve retention.	ActWELL; WORKWELL; TOPAZ	Matches Priorities no. 4 from the PRioRiT y 2 top 10.
MEDIUM PRIORITY QUESTIONS		
What is the effect of adding a pen printed with the trial/university logo to the trial questionnaire on retention rates (SWAT 37)?	OTIS, KREBS, SSheW	Existing data; matches Priority no. 6 from the PRioRiT y top 10
What is the effect of timing text message prompts to increase trial participant response to postal questionnaires? (SWAT 44)	UKFROST; MIQUIT, CHAMP-1	Matches Priorities no. 4 and 6 from the PRioRiT y 2 top 10
What is the impact of receiving a social incentive intervention cover letter compared with a standard covering letter on response to postal questionnaires? (SWAT registration submitted)	OTIS, ACL SNNAP	Matches Priorities no. 4 from the PRioRiT y 2 top 10.

SWAT 54: giving participants a thank you note or card after each study visit.	CLEAR	
Effect of birthday cards with or without nudge on retention and data completion rates in trials involving children (SWAT 79)	OSTRICH	
Responsive versus non-responsive text message reminder	ACTIVE	

3. Costing

- Is the funding requested appropriate for the type of SWAT proposed? (e.g. staff time, intervention costs such as printing or pens, conference costs).
- We cannot pay for open access fees as these are paid as a block grant to Higher Education Institutions.

4. Rating of applications received

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