

MRC-NIHR TMRP Health Informatics Working Group Remit

Co-leads: Amanda Farrin (CTRU, University of Leeds) and Matt Sydes (MRC CTU, University College London)

Objectives

This new WG will focus on the methodology needed to realise the potential of digital technology to improve trial design, conduct and analysis. The remit is wide-ranging: a prioritisation process will take place within the first six months to enable a more focused agenda concentrating on the gaps in relevant methodological research and the needs of the clinical trials research community.

Research areas to target

- Use of electronic healthcare records (electronic patient records) and routine administrative datasets in support/conduct/design clinical trials in the UK
- Use and assessment of information collected directly from trial participants (e.g. wearables; apps, online patient-reported outcome measure collection)
- Use and assessment of technology to support trial conduct (e.g. interactive eCRF, electronic consent tools)
- Clinical trials data sharing, including methods for anonymising, sharing and optimised storage of quantitative, qualitative and audio-visual trial data
- Explore options for novel trial designs for intervention evaluation alongside routine data collection

Membership

Co-leads will oversee WG membership. Rolling / open membership to be inclusive: membership reviewed annually and refreshed as appropriate. Members will comprise individuals currently 'active in trials methodology research' linked to WG Remit.

Representation will be sought across key collaborators and will include academic researchers, trialists, clinicians, early career researchers, relevant PhD students from the TMRP, with PPI and industry representatives as appropriate, ensuring a mix of seniority, gender, geographical location, discipline and specialism alignment with key stakeholders.

Potential membership is likely to include a subset from the previous HTMR Network Health Informatics membership list, alongside others currently active in relevant trials methodology. Expressions of interest for membership will be sought for oversight activities (inner 'core') and research and dissemination activities (wider 'outer' core / sub-groups linked to the research areas listed above).

Collaborations

- HDR UK (National lead for Trials programme)
- NHS Digital
- UKCRC Registered CTU Network (e.g. Task and Finish Group on data sharing, Task and Finish Group on EHR)
- Other TMRP WGs