

Tues 5th November

Practical: So, you think you want to run a Randomised Controlled Trial?

The aim of this session is to select a viable research question for development into a full RCT protocol from those brought to the short course by group members.

1. Each person within your small group should briefly present their research question to the rest of the group (5 mins), including the following elements in their presentation:
 - **Background**- literature, local knowledge, clinical experience: consider what is known/what is not known
 - **Research Question**- problem statement/question
 - **Aim & Objectives**- overall aim plus a “To Do” list (objectives)
 - **Hypotheses**- Precise statement of expected relationships between at least two variables; amenable to statistical evaluation
 - **Implications**- for policy and practice

2. As a group, discuss the different study ideas, with the aim of selecting one to take forward for further development into a more detailed protocol for an RCT. When considering the research ideas, you should pay particular attention to the following:
 - **Importance**- will the research lead to expansion of knowledge and potential improvements in practice and healthcare?
 - **Relevance**- is the idea important to patients, carers, clinicians, policymakers and other stakeholders?
 - **Originality**- does an answer already exist to the question you are planning to study?
 - **Feasibility**- is the idea researchable? Will you be able to identify clearly defined variables that are measurable? Are there any major logistical/ethical barriers associated with the idea?
 - **Impact**- how will the results of the study be used to improve health/healthcare?