



The PRACTiHC Collaboration

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Introduction and aim

- Pragmatic randomised controlled trials aim to evaluate healthcare interventions as they would be delivered in practice, in typical settings and on typical users rather than 'explanatory' trials which are conducted under idealised and tightly controlled conditions with highly selected individuals.
- The results of pragmatic trials are, thus, more useful to healthcare policymakers.
- The aim of the PRACTiHC (Pragmatic Trials in Health Care Systems) Collaboration is to promote the more widespread use of pragmatic trials, and to develop the 'science' of pragmatic trials.

Objectives

There are 12 partner institutions world-wide. The primary contribution of the Health Services Research Unit is to locate or develop tools and resources to support the development and use of pragmatic trials and to make these accessible through the development of a Protocol Support Tool (PST).



Partner Institutions



PST specifications

- The PST is designed on the basis of the Windows help system.
- The PST has the ability to function independently of the Internet.
- The PST will support multiple languages.

Each section of the protocol checklist will include:

- An explanation.
- A checklist of things to consider.
- Illustrative examples.
- Resources e.g. guidelines, checklists, software, information resources, further reading.

The other specific scientific and technological objectives of the collaboration are:

- To study up to 100 partner experiences of pragmatic RCTs for high priority health problems and so to develop guidelines for improving their quality, relevance and use in decision-making.
- To systematically review the published literature on conduct of RCTs of interventions for high priority health problems in developing countries.
- To reinforce the capacity of developing countries to conduct high quality trials by developing and piloting a programme of trial development workshops in the design and conduct of trials.
- To promote the science of pragmatic randomised trials through dissemination workshops and publications and by extending training and support to neighbouring countries.
- To reinforce scientific and technological co-operation between researchers in developing countries and in the European Community.