

Developing a Patient and public Involvement intervention to enhance Recruitment and Retention In Surgical Trials (PIRRIST)

Stage 1: Survey of PPI Practice in UK Surgical Trials



Joanna C. Crocker*, Sian Rees, Louise Locock, Sophie Petit-Zeman, Alan Chant, Shaun Treweek, Jonathan A. Cook, Nicola Farrar, Kerry Woolfall, Jennifer Bostock, Louise Bowman, Richard Bulbulia.
 *Email: joanna.crocker@phc.ox.ac.uk

- Poor recruitment and retention are common challenges to the successful delivery of surgical trials, possibly alleviated by greater patient and public involvement (PPI).
- We aim to **develop and evaluate** a robust PPI intervention to improve recruitment and/or retention in surgical trials.
- The development of this intervention comprises 4 stages:
 - Online survey** to map current PPI practice in UK surgical trials (which the PPI intervention would aim to enhance);
 - Focus groups with stakeholders** (surgical trial investigators, administrators and patient or lay contributors) to explore their views on PPI, recruitment and retention;
 - Online survey** of stakeholders' views about possible components of a PPI intervention;
 - Consensus workshop** with selected stakeholders to design a PPI intervention for evaluation.
- Active, UK-led, adult surgical trials were eligible for the **mapping survey (stage 1)**. Here we present some key preliminary findings...

Definition of PPI used in this survey

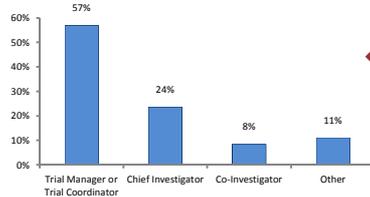
"By 'PPI' we mean researchers consulting with or working alongside members of the public, patients, service users and/or carers in all or any part(s) of the research process, including the choice of research topic, design, planning, conduct and/or dissemination of research. In this survey we refer to these people as 'PPI contributors'.

PPI contributors may be, for example: grant co-applicants, members of the Trial Steering Committee or Trial Management Group, members of a patient or lay advisory panel, or participants in a trial-specific consultation exercise such as a focus group, survey or interviews. Consultation exercises may or may not use formal research methods.

By 'PPI', we do not mean researchers recruiting people to be participants in the trial, or researchers disseminating information about the trial to patients or the public."

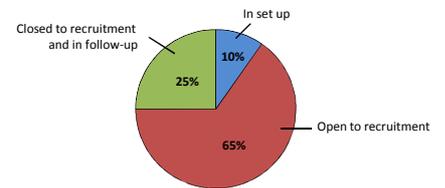
Who took part in the survey?

129 eligible surgical trials were identified and contacted by email, of which **72 (59%) responded** and were included in the survey.



Most respondents were Trial Managers and Trial Coordinators, and most trials were open to recruitment at the time of survey completion.

At what stage is this trial currently?



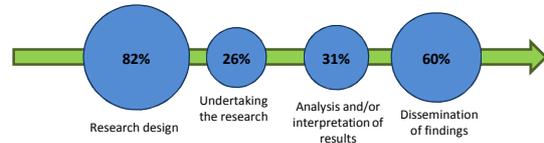
PPI roles and activities

66 (92%) participating trials reported PPI or plans for PPI in the trial.

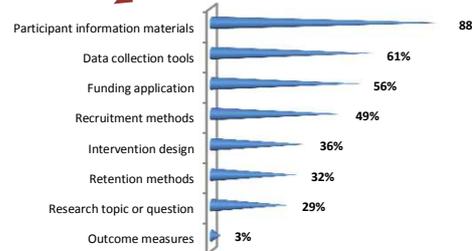
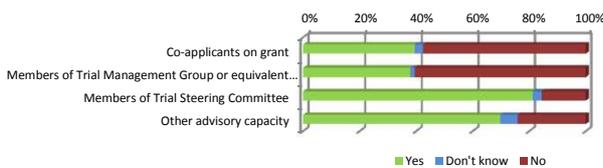


PPI contributors were frequently involved as members of the **Trial Steering Committee** and in other advisory capacities (including one-off consultations). Less commonly, they were co-applicants on the grant and/or members of the Trial Management Group or equivalent study team.

PPI was most commonly included in the **design** and **dissemination** phases of trials, and more unusually in undertaking the trial and analysing the findings. The single most common PPI activity was developing participant information materials.

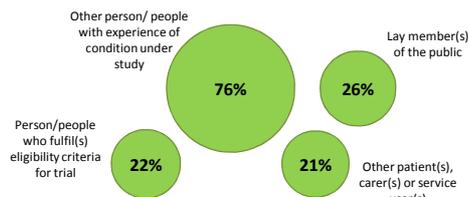


PPI roles within surgical trials (n=66)



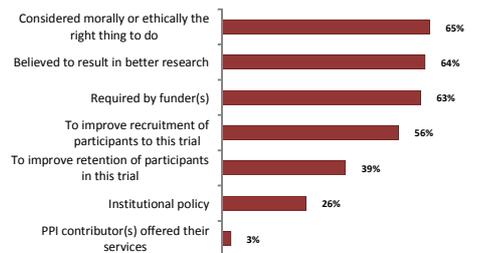
Who are the PPI contributors in surgical trials?

Most trials included PPI contributors who had **experience of the condition under study** but did not necessarily fulfil the participant eligibility criteria for the trial. **Lay member(s) of the public** were also involved in a quarter of trials.



Why is PPI included in surgical trials?

PPI was included in the trial for **multiple reasons**, most commonly because it was considered morally or ethically the right thing to do, it was believed to result in better research, and it was required by the funder(s).



In a nutshell...

- UK surgical trials involve patients and members of the public in a variety of different ways, most commonly at the **beginning and end of the trial lifecycle** and in **oversight or advisory roles**.
- This knowledge will inform the development of a robust **PPI intervention** aimed at improving recruitment and retention in surgical trials.
- We are currently conducting **focus groups** with surgical trial staff and PPI contributors (stage 2) and plan a second **online survey** (stage 3) and **consensus workshop** (stage 4) to inform the development and choice of our PPI intervention.
- If you would like to get involved, please contact the lead researcher at joanna.crocker@phc.ox.ac.uk