RESEARCH PROJECT LIFECYCLE · DELIVERY

What to track in every group

A trial compares groups, so you need the same picture of each one. Track control groups too. Otherwise you cannot tell whether a difference came from the treatment or from what happened around it.

01

Cases identified and allocated

Every group

How many cases were referred and allocated this period, against the target.

ACT WHEN

Below 90% of the expected pace means you are behind, and losing power.

02

Treatment delivered

Treatment

The share of each treatment group who received the treatment as planned.

ACT WHEN

Below the acceptable level at two reviews in a row alerts the Research Lead.

03

What the control group received

Control

What business as usual actually looked like, in practice.

ACT WHEN

Any part of the treatment reaching control weakens the comparison.

04

Crossover

Every group

People who received the other group's treatment, with the reasons.

ACT WHEN

Above the limit set in your plan raises an alert.

05

Practice at control sites

Control

Has anything changed at control sites since the trial began?

ACT WHEN

A significant change is recorded as a limitation in the report.

06

Blinding

Every group

Has anyone learnt something they should not know?

ACT WHEN

Any unblinding is recorded for the report and the Gate 4 review.

07

Dropout and withdrawals

Every group

How many left each group this period, and why.

ACT WHEN

A gap of more than 10 percentage points between groups raises an alert.

08

Response rate

Every group

For outcomes collected by questionnaire: the rate in each group, against target.

ACT WHEN

Below target, or a gap over 10 points between groups, alerts the Research Lead.

Check all eight at every regular review, using the Delivery Tracking and Regular Review template. Outcome results stay hidden until any planned interim analysis, so tracking never unblinds the trial.

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