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POSTER PRESENTATION

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PARTNERS2: a protocol for the development of a core outcome set for use in mental health trials involving people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder in a community setting

Thomas Keeley^{1*}, Humera Khan¹, Vanessa Pinfold², Paula Williamson³, Jonathan Mathers¹, Linda Davies⁴, Ruth Sayers², Elizabeth England¹, Siobhan Reilly⁵, Richard Byng⁶, Linda Gask⁷, Mike Clark⁸, Peter Huxley⁹, Peter Lewis¹⁰, Maximillian Birchwood¹¹, Melanie Calvert¹

From The 4th Meeting of the Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials (COMET) Initiative Rome, Italy. 19-20 November 2014

Background

Randomised controlled trials can provide robust evidence to inform clinical care of mental health service users. A core outcome set (COS) for use in research into schizophrenia and bipolar has the potential to reduce reporting bias and increase the ability of reviewers to synthesise results of randomised controlled trials. There is no core outcome set currently available for use in this research area.

The aim of this study is to develop a COS for use in research into schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in a community setting.

Materials and methods

A group of participants representing the key stakeholder groups, including service users, carers, health and social care professionals and commissioners, will be recruited from the United Kingdom.

Focus groups and one-to-one interviews, led by academic and service user researchers, will seek to identify clinical, social, psychological and physical outcomes that are important to key stakeholders. An iterative, constant comparative and thematic analysis will identify key outcomes and will be supplemented by outcomes identified through a review of literature.

An online, three round, Delphi study with key stakeholders will reduce the range of potential outcomes to a smaller core set. On completion of the Delphi Study a face-to-face consensus meeting will be held to ratify the final outcomes.

A systematic or rapid literature review will assess the properties of existing measures used in research with bipolar and schizophrenia populations. Measures identified will be matched with the outcomes from the Delphi study for consideration and confirmation at a later stakeholder meeting.

Conclusions

A COS represents the minimum measurement requirement for trials within a research area. It is anticipated that this work will increase the use of stakeholder relevant outcomes and improve our ability interpret and compare the results of studies involving people with schizophrenia and bipolar in a community setting.

This abstract is dedicated to the memory of Helen Lester, Professor of Mental Health at the University of Birmingham UK who led the PARTNERS-2 programme grant development and is sadly missed by colleagues.

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Authors' details

¹School of Health and Population Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK. ²The McPin Foundation, London SE1 OEH, UK. ³Institute of Translational Medicine, University of Liverpool, Liverpool L69 3BX, UK. ⁴Centre for Health Economics, University of Manchester, Manchester

* Correspondence: T.J.H.Keeley@bham.ac.uk

¹School of Health and Population Sciences, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK

Full list of author information is available at the end of the article

M13 9PL, UK. ⁵Division of Health Research, Lancaster University, Lancaster LA1 4YG, UK. ⁶Centre for Clinical Trials and Health Research, Plymouth University, Plymouth PL4 8AA, UK. ⁷Institute of Population Health, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PL, UK. ⁸NIHR School for Social Care Research, London School of Economics and Political Science, London WC2A 2AE, UK. ⁹Centre for Mental Health and Society, Bangor University, Bangor LL57 2DG, UK. ¹⁰Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust, Birmingham B1 3RB, UK. ¹¹Mental Health and Wellbeing, University of Warwick, Warwick CV4 7AL, UK.

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