

MRC-NIHR TMRP Statistical Analysis Working Group Remit

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Objectives

The group's aim is to improve methods for primary and secondary analysis of randomised controlled trials (RCTs) through collaborative methodological research and dissemination. The SAWG will support work on statistical analysis methods that could be written into a trial's statistical analysis plan (rather than general methods that might be applied to secondary trial data).

Its main objective is to facilitate collaboration among individuals working on similar topics relating to statistical analysis of randomised trials, with the aim of adding value to each other's work, strengthening links between groups and identifying new areas for research. The group is focusing its efforts on: preparing tutorial papers for applied journals and mainstream medical journals; presentations and lectures to increase uptake of methods amongst stakeholders; issuing guidance on methods (when to use them, how to use them, when they break); developing software to implement new statistical methods where required; teaching short courses.

We will develop a principled approach to the process of analysing trial data from the inception of study that can be used as a training resource for future clinical trial statisticians.

Research areas to target

- Approaches to covariate adjustment;
- Approaches to survival data;
- Methods for missing data;
- Causal modelling;
- Assessing generalisability;
- Defining estimands;
- Analysis issues specific to efficient trial designs;
- Preparing analysis for future meta-analysis of trials.

Membership

Members will include individuals and research groups working on developing and applying methods for statistical analysis and those with an interest in using these methods; for example, trial statisticians with specific statistical problems who lack the time to work on them.

We plan to have a 'core' group of up to 10 individuals (actively working on statistical methods) who will meet every 3 months. There will be a wider group of members and stakeholders for annual meetings.

Collaborations

- UKCRC Registered Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) Network Statistics Working Group
- Funders (UKRI and NIHR) and charities with funding panels
- NIHR Statistics Group
- Other TMRP working groups (especially outcomes, stratified medicine, and adaptive designs)