

POSTER ABSTRACTS

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Standardization of Subject Recruitment and Survey Research

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Background: One of the inherent methodologic challenges to multi-site studies is standardizing approaches to recruitment and data collection. Site-specific policies may vary, necessitating changes to a centralized protocol as it is adapted at different study sites. Recruitment settings may differ from site to site, depending on the organization of a participating institution. At present, recruitment and data collection strategies are developed for each study. However, efficiencies and cost savings could be realized by developing a compendium of best practices and standardized approaches to recruitment and data collection.

As part of an effort to build and sustain a research infrastructure (Coordinated Clinical Studies Network (CCSN)) for clinical and health services research that builds on the current capacity of the HMORN, we will develop 1) a best practices manual for subject recruitment and survey research; and 2) a training manual based on these guidelines.

Methods: Dr. Boudreau and Ms. Wiese will convene a committee (1 member per site) to oversee development of a best practices and training manual. As a first step, the committee will develop a structured phone interview that is aimed at determining needed components of the manual, current practices at each site, advantages and limitations of different methodologies, examples of multi-site study protocols, and facilitators and barriers in populations being studied and in different types of studies conducted across the HMORN. Dr. Boudreau and Ms. Wiese will interview committee members and at least one additional individual from each site.

Results: We will present what we learn from the structured interviews along with various components of a best practices manual. Following the brief presentation, we will give all of those in attendance an opportunity to respond to the results and offer suggestions about best practices and identification of what would be most useful, relevant, and sustainable over time.

Conclusion: This session will identify a network of people at various organizations intent on developing highest quality data collection and recording methods that will, in turn, promote standardization and collaboration across sites.