

# SWAT 184: Identifying barriers and facilitators to research in long term care facilities

## Objective of this SWAT

To gauge barriers and facilitators to research participation in long term care facilities (LTCFs) as well as understandings of and perceived priorities for research among key stakeholders in this setting: family members of persons in residential care, staff members, and key gatekeepers (e.g. management, owners).

Study area: Recruitment

Sample type: Participants

Estimated funding level needed: Low

## Background

Recruitment to research studies in LTCFs can be difficult. Findings from the PRioRiTty study identified “barriers and enablers for clinicians/healthcare professionals in helping to conduct randomized trials” as a high-priority unanswered question on recruitment in trials (1). This question has not yet been addressed in the context of Irish LTCFs nor from the perspective of their residents and families. Recruitment to trials among LTCF staff and residents is particularly challenging, owing to complex structures of gatekeeping, capacity to provide consent and the potential for unintended coercion. It is therefore important to investigate factors that represent barriers or facilitators to participating in research in LTCFs, to guide more effective recruitment strategies both for clinical trials and research in general.

## Interventions and comparators

Intervention 1: Online national survey of LTCF staff, management and family of residents of LTCFs. Survey consists of a series of statements on research participation covering research design, personal risk and altruism (adapted from Smith et al (2)), to which respondents are asked to use a 5-point Likert scale to rate the importance of each in deciding whether to participate in research.

Intervention 2: Semi-structured interviews with 20 participants comprised of LTCF staff, LTCF managers/directors of nursing and family members of residents. Questions to cover include key barriers and facilitators to participating in research.

Index Type:

## Method for allocating to intervention or comparator

## Outcome measures

Primary: From the survey and interviews: prioritized list of motivators and challenges to research participation, insight into participants’ prior experiences of and perspectives on research participation and ranked list of participants’ research priorities

Secondary: From interviews: insight into how research participation could be better facilitated

## Analysis plans

Quantitative survey results will be analysed using descriptive statistics and distribution analysis. Guided Content Analysis will be used to categorize and interpret free-text data and interview transcripts.

## Possible problems in implementing this SWAT

Reaching the target sample sizes for the survey and interview may be difficult.

## References

1. Health Research Board (2017). The PRioRiTty (Prioritising Recruitment in Randomised Trials) study: Setting priorities for trial recruitment research. Available at <https://priorityresearch.ie/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/192791-hrb-report-online-final.pdf>
2. Smith V, Corry M, Devane D et al. Prioritising key motivators and challenges influencing informal carers’ decisions for participating in randomised trials: An embedded Study Within A before and

after Trial (SWAT 55) [version 2; peer review: 1 approved, 1 approved with reservations]. HRB Open Res 2021;3:71. Available at <https://doi.org/10.12688/hrbopenres.13125.2>

### **Publications or presentations of this SWAT design**

Connelly, J.P (2022, Oct 5). A SWAT to explore research readiness and priorities for conducting research in nursing homes in Ireland [Poster presentation]. International Clinical Trials Methodology Conference, Harrogate, UK.

### **Examples of the implementation of this SWAT**

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Date of idea: 1/JAN/2021

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Date of revisions: 6/FEB/2023