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Tackling inequalities in access to clinical pharmacist led healthcare: recognising and overcoming ethical issues of inclusion in research

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Background

Clinical pharmacists are trained to treat people from all walks of life equally. Their work ethos and ethical practice promotes inclusion and respect for diversity. Pharmacy practice is evidence-based so it follows that research must also promote equality and inclusion while respecting diversity. All too often what are considered marginalised or vulnerable groups are excluded from participation in research because gaining the necessary ethical approvals is perceived to be overly challenging and methods of data collection often require adaptation. The paradox is that not researching such groups is in itself unethical.¹⁻¹¹

Aim

The aim of this workshop is to raise awareness of some of the ethical and practical issues in researching or not researching diverse populations.

This workshop will challenge pharmacy practitioners to consider the inequalities inherent in research which undermine their evidence-base for tackling inequalities in their daily practice.

Learning Objectives

On completion of the workshop, the participants will be able to:

1. Recognise inequalities in research, asking why some groups are under-researched
2. Identify effective strategies to gain informed consent for marginalised or vulnerable group participation in research, asking what more we can do to tackle inequalities and promote inclusion

3. Reflect on the impact for evidence-based clinical practice, asking what we can do to tackle inequalities in access to clinical pharmacist-led healthcare

Content and Structure

The moderators will draw on their experience and expertise to encourage interaction and participation through small group based activities using a range of well-developed and tailored workshop materials.

- **Introductions including an:**
 - Overview of the workshop and brief presentation on the ethical issues, inherent publication bias and perpetuation of the lack of evidence-base by not giving voice to marginalised and vulnerable groups
- **Activities** (facilitated in small groups) will focus on tackling inequalities in research involving elderly frail, people with learning disabilities, homeless people, refugees and children covering:
 - Research governance: how to gain ethical review
 - Recruitment: how to gain informed consent
 - Participation: how to facilitate and record engagement
- **Presentations and feedback**
 - Each group presents their strategy for tackling inequalities through engagement, recruitment and participation of marginalised and vulnerable groups in research to inform clinical pharmacy practice

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