PROTECTING BLINDING IN TRIALS USING HEALTH SYSTEMS DATA

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BACKGROUND

Health systems data like electronic health records can make trials faster, cheaper, and more inclusive[1].

TOP-CAT is part of HDR UK's Transforming Data for Trials programme. Cardiff University's Centre for Trials Research works with HDR UK to develop training videos that help researchers and trial teams use health systems data effectively.

MY PROJECT

As part of TOP-CAT, I created a training video on protecting blinding in trials using health systems data.

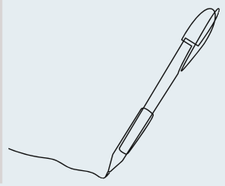
Blinding keeps treatment groups hidden, to reduce bias and keep results reliable in trials[2]. But with 23.5 million people in England now able to view their health records online[3], details (like test results) could unintentionally reveal treatment groups.

PROCESS

How I went from research to recording

Me at the filming setup

LITERATURE REVIEW



SCRIPT OUTLINE

MEETING WITH PUBLIC ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING WITH SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS

SCRIPT DRAFTING

REVISE

FILMING

FINAL SCRIPT

FINDINGS

- Using a Blinding Matrix - a planning tool to map "who sees what," helping teams anticipate risks to blinding[4]
- Role-Based Access - giving different people different levels of access, so trial staff only see the information they need.
- Members of the Public Advisory Group also stressed that participants should clearly understand what blinding means before giving consent.

OUTPUT/IMPACT

- A short training video + script, to be hosted on HDR Futures.
- Helps trial teams anticipate and manage blinding risks when using health systems data.
- Supports more reliable trials and greater public trust.

Scan to find courses already hosted on HDR FUTURES

CONCLUSION

- As health systems data becomes routine in trials, protecting blinding is important to be considered.
- Practical tools like the blinding matrix and role-based access help uphold trial integrity and ensure results we can trust.

REFERENCES