

PCNE Workshop 3: Defining a core outcome set for pharmaceutical care projects

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This is a collaborative workshop for researchers willing to share time and effort in order to define core outcomes for a particular type of pharmaceutical care research

Introduction:

Defining the right outcomes is of crucial importance in the design of a research project. So far, pharmaceutical care researchers have been struggling in defining and choosing valid outcomes that allow to prove the added value of pharmaceutical care. Moreover, each research group uses different outcomes, hence encompassing the possibility to compare and combine data. The development of a core outcome set (COS) has the potential to reduce heterogeneity between trials, lead to research that is more likely to have measured relevant outcomes, and enhance the value of evidence synthesis by reducing the risk of outcome reporting bias and ensuring that all trials contribute usable information.

Aim:

The aim of this workshop is to write a protocol in order to develop a core outcome set for a particular type of pharmaceutical care research.

Learning objectives:

- To understand the rationale for the development of a core outcome set.
- To get familiar with initiatives established to define core outcome sets.
- To be able to develop a thorough methodology in order to define core outcomes for a particular type of pharmaceutical care research

Activities in the workshop:

The workshop will start with a presentation of initiatives taken to develop core outcome sets, and the rationale behind it.

Later on, participants will work together in order to write a detailed protocol for the development of a core outcome set for a particular type of pharmaceutical care research. Depending on the interest of the participants, a protocol could be developed in order to define core outcomes for studies on discharge counselling. The protocol that describes the development of a core outcome set for medication review studies, will be used as an example.

The workshop will end with an exploration of possibilities to carry out the protocol within an international research group, and to obtain funding in order to meet the aim.