



5th PCNE Working Conference Overcoming the Barriers in Pharmaceutical Care Research

Workshop III: Developing a frame for international pharmaceutical care studies

M A Gastelurrutia & J M Traulsen



Expectations

A number of coordinated international research studies have been implemented by several PCNE members. Based on the experience gained, guidelines will be developed in this workshop to help researchers design and implement robust (and successful) international studies.

What we did.

Day one:

- Introduction of Facilitators and Participants
- Brainstorming:
 - Areas of interest
 - Experiences with international projects
 - Challenges of International projects
- Defining objectives

What we did.

Day two:

- Based on the "PROJECT HANDBOOK" by *Janine Traulsen and Bjorn Ove Klinke*, the participants addressed the various phases of project work.
- Draft Guidelines were formulated for each project phase.
- Prepared the Report of Phase II

What we did.

Day three:

- Summing up the Draft Guidelines



REPORT OF PHASE II

1. DEFINED AREAS OF INTEREST FOR PCNE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT
2. DECISION ON PRIORITIES
3. DEFINED OBJECTIVES FOR THE WORKING GROUP
4. DRAFT GUIDELINES

(1) DEFINED AREAS OF INTEREST FOR PCNE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECT

- Standardizing the definitions of what is the process of pharmaceutical care. DRP classification / need for consensus and standardization
- Prescribing errors & DRPs - transfer of patients between primary and secondary care
- Pharmaceutical Care and Pharmacy education / integrating into curriculum
- Sustainability of projects / making it practice
- Translating research into practice and then onto policy level (Figure) IT development. How does IT help? Use more intelligently.
- Improving motivation and beliefs about medicines to improve compliance
- Organisation of pharmacy in the future – internet pharmacies, separation of dispensing and ph care, remuneration


(2) DECISIONS ON PRIORITIES

To facilitate the carrying out and managing international PCNE projects.



(3) DEFINED OBJECTIVES FOR THE WORKING GROUP

To develop guidelines for PCNE
International Research Projects



Draft of
PCNE
GUIDELINES
for International
Research Projects

Guidelines

- Ph.C. is a philosophy of practice. When starting a new international project don't waste time defining Ph.Care.
- The most important thing is to describe the intervention to be studied in detail.



Guidelines

1. Beginning
2. Finding existing knowledge
3. Project management
4. Carrying out the project
5. Evaluation
6. Dissemination

Beginning

- Planning is key
- Define a problem that needs an international answer or define a problem that can be looked at in different ways internationally
- Find out who has the problem that we need to solve
- Reach an agreement on the main research question. Is it important to all the international partners?
- Who are international stakeholders in this area
- Where do we get the money for the international project
- find the right collaborators with strong professional motivation

Beginning (II)

- Decide what is/are the methodological approach(es) and write a very clear description of the study design
- The team needs to accept the validity of all the research methods used
- Define the roles and responsibilities of each participant
- Decide on the coordinator (experienced, flexible)
- Clear management structure for the planning stage – realistic timelines are key
- Agree how to deal with data internationally regarding security

Finding existing knowledge

- Small national projects often are not published at all.
- Abstracts from each project should be put in the PCNE database.
- local researchers responsibility for their country/language
- agree on a cut-off point for the time (to stop the search)
- agree on the quality criteria of knowledge that is acceptable (i.e. control group or not; theory or not)
- agree on a method to extract data from acceptable literature to enable writing the report
- Meetings of the group to assimilate the knowledge from each partner
- Holes in knowledge or expertise may be identified after such meetings.
- Invite new experts into the group (when necessary)
- Drop others if they bring little or nothing to the collaboration

Project management

- Coordination needs to be funded in order to function well
- There has to be somebody who has an overview of the work and is responsible for meeting any deadlines
- need to ensure adequate training and facilities at each site -- remember that this can change during the study
- Organize thoughts / objectives / deliverables
- Sub-projects may emerge – put in plan (don't kill them)
- need to prepare and agree on an overall management structure for the project delivery
- Accept hierarchy / structure of leaders within the project

Project management (II)

- Accept hierarchy / structure of leaders within the project
- agree on mutually acceptable methods of regular communication -- this can be using teleconferences (f. ex. SKYPE conferences)
- agree who will organise the regular communication (project manager)
- set realistic expectations as to how long the planning stage will take
- acknowledge and accept the workplace culture in each country
- avoid being discouraged - plan for problems -- be pessimistic about time requirements (international projects take A LOT longer) and still be flexible
- Distribute tasks to members according to national resources / expertise and not only according to equity (rational use of resources).

Carrying out the project

- Need for monitoring nationally & internationally, including data management
- Make plans/resource overviews nationally
- Need to prepare standardised databases etc for the data
- **Decide whether you need international and national data managers**
- Need a protocol for how to clean data at international and/or national level
- Verify the data in the international context and for each research group
- **For both quantitative and qualitative data, have meetings to look at the context of the findings**
- Have international meetings regularly during qualitative data analysis, so can go back into the field
- **Need to get a step higher than just comparing national studies**

Evaluation

- **Need for intermediate process evaluations where misunderstandings can be cleared**
- Interim reporting – a few well defined questions (even closed) on what milestones have been met and which not.
- **Use outside evaluators/monitors**
- Have evaluators outside the pharmacy profession who ask difficult questions such as “What impact to you want to have with this project?”
- Revise the PCNE guidelines for international studies at the point of evaluation of project
- **Disseminate what we have learnt to improve future studies**

Dissemination

- **Need to decide right at the beginning of the study who is going to be authors for each study and in what order**
- Decide who are going to be the initial writers of the papers (division of labour)
- **Publish results in both peer-reviewed and popular journals & conferences**
- Make joint core papers about the study that can be referred to by subsequent papers (if possible)
- **Decide on the order of the publications -- national or international first**
- Decide on the languages of publications
- Don't just disseminate at the end – on-going process - plan dissemination during the project as appropriate
- Send abstract to PCNE for inclusion in database of projects

Part of the team...



...and the missing ones.

