Emerging Topic of Interest:
Pragmatic Clinical Trials

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Describe the nature of Pragmatic Clinical Trials
- Recognize why communication plans are useful for PCTs
- Describe ethical and regulatory issues involved in conducting a PCT

Overview

Pragmatic Clinical Trials (PCTs)

- discuss several case studies using the PRECIS-2 tool

Communication plan

- discuss how you might develop communication plan for a case study

Regulatory/Ethical issues

- discuss regulatory and ethical issues posed by a case study

1. What is a pragmatic clinical trial?

Purpose

"The purpose of **pragmatic trials** is to evaluate potential therapeutic benefits in real-world situations, to really look at clinical effectiveness rather than efficacy in idealized academic systems. Pragmatic trials can have a tremendous impact on what we all struggle with, which is translating our knowledge to clinical practice. Pragmatic trials give us insights into how we can do this in average clinical settings. The most important outcome is improving patient safety and saving lives."

Edward J. Septimus, MD

Medical Director

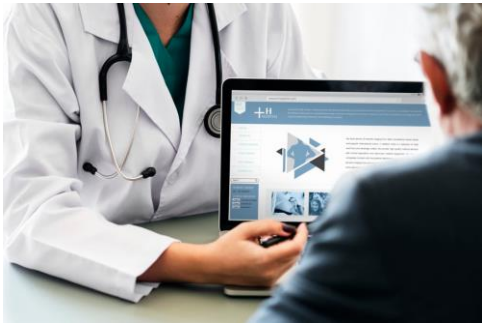
Infection Prevention & Epidemiology Clinical Services

Hospital Corporation of America

and NIH Collaboratory PCT partner

What Can Different Types of Trials Tell Us?

- **Explanatory or traditional randomized clinical trials (RCTs)** confirm a physiological or clinical hypothesis. They test efficacy.
- **Pragmatic clinical trials (PCTs)** inform clinical practice and/or policy decisions by providing evidence for adoption of the intervention in real-world clinical settings. They test effectiveness.
- **Example:** Chronic pain research

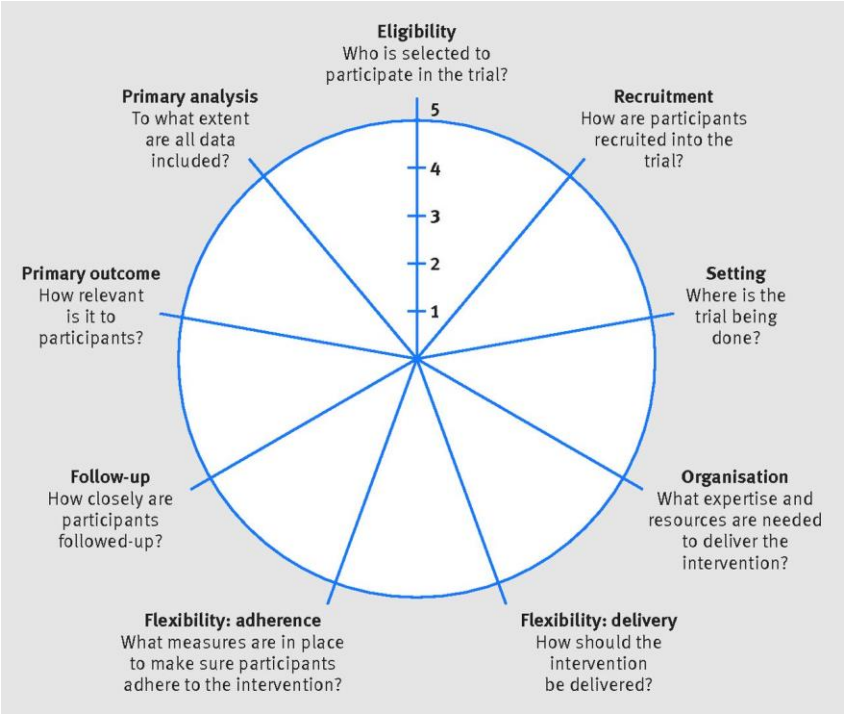


Key Differences Between RCTs and PCTs

	Explanatory Trials/Traditional RCTs	Pragmatic Trials
Intent	Test hypothesis, determine causes and effects of treatment	Inform practice and policy by testing effectiveness in situ
Design	Test intervention against placebo with standard protocols	Test two or more real-world treatments using flexible protocols and local customization
Setting	Research clinics/specialized centers	Usual care settings
Population	Highly defined and carefully selected	Representative of patients in usual care setting
Measures	Data collection outside routine usual care	Brief and designed so data can be easily collected in clinical settings

PRECIS-2: Explanatory or Pragmatic?

The Pragmatic-Explanatory Continuum Indicator Summary 2 (PRECIS-2) wheel



Kirsty Loudon et al. BMJ 2015;350:bmj.h2147

1. Very explanatory
2. Rather explanatory
3. Equally pragmatic and explanatory
4. Rather pragmatic
5. Very pragmatic

Small Group Activity: Pragmatic or Explanatory?

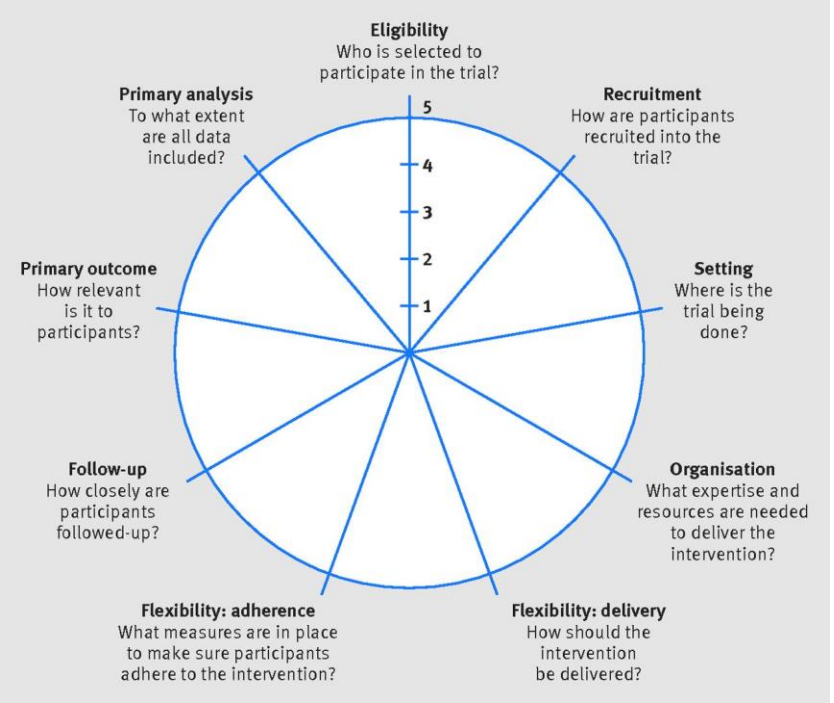
Working in your small groups, use the PRECIS-2 tool to discuss and score each domain-based case study on the pragmatic <–> explanatory continuum.

Bonus (for fast groups): Use the PRECIS-2 tool to identify where your current and past project(s) fit on the pragmatic – explanatory continuum. Discuss.

2. Why have a communication plan?

Why Have a Communication Plan?

- Researchers, health care systems, clinicians, and often patients have to work together for a PCT to be successful
- Different stakeholders have different goals and needs
- Most pragmatic trials are multi-site
- Pragmatic trials need to be flexible



Lots of moving pieces means lots to keep track of!

Communication Plan?

- Someone on the study team "owns" a directory of contacts at each site (**a list**)
- Someone on the study team "owns" a directory with listed roles and responsibilities (**a spreadsheet**)
- A formalized agreement laying out study organization and delineating levels of governance and communication, including meeting days/times and requirements (**a contract**)

Formal Communication Plan

(Trial Name) CLINICAL TRIAL

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Small Group Activity:
PROUD Trial – Communication Plan

Introduction to the

Primary Care Opioid Use Disorders Treatment (PROUD) Trial

- In your small groups you will discuss how you might approach developing a communication plan for PROUD

The PROUD Trial: Objective

Primary Objective

Evaluate whether implementation of the Massachusetts Model of collaborative care for management of Opioid Use Disorders (OUDs) increases OUD treatment with buprenorphine or injectable naltrexone, documented in EHR over 2-year follow-up compared to usual primary care.

The MA Model is a team-based, collaborative care approach that uses a fulltime clinic-based nurse care manager (NCM) to integrate medication treatment for OUDs into PC.

Main Features

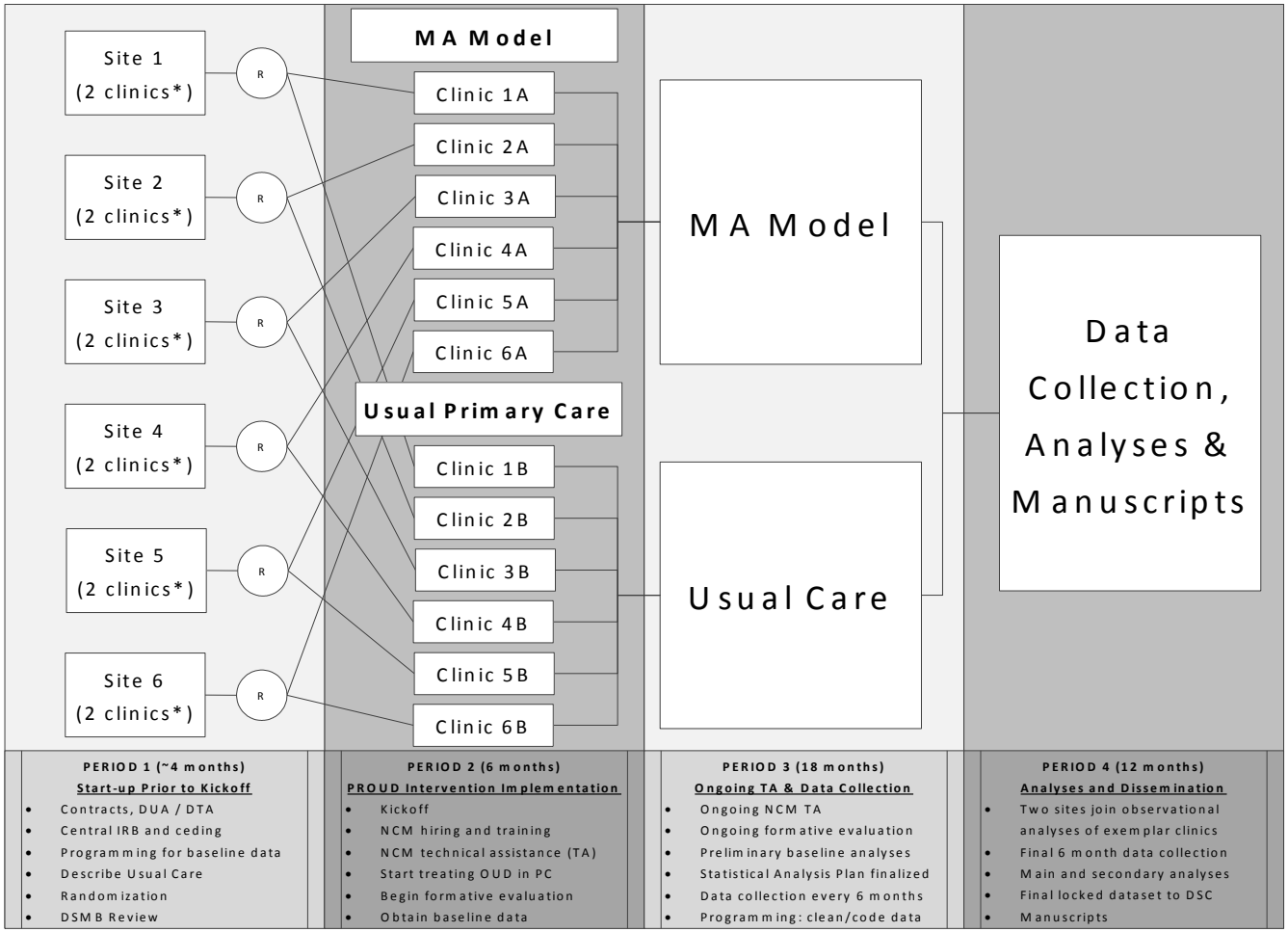
- Pragmatic, cluster-randomized, quality improvement trial—mixed effectiveness and implementation trial
- 6-health systems across the US, each with two PC clinics
- The QI intervention is owned by the healthcare delivery systems, implementation and research evaluation is owned by research teams
- Data collection, minimum necessary from EHR

PROUD Trial: Eligibility

Table 1. Eligibility of Sites & Clinics for the PROUD Trial

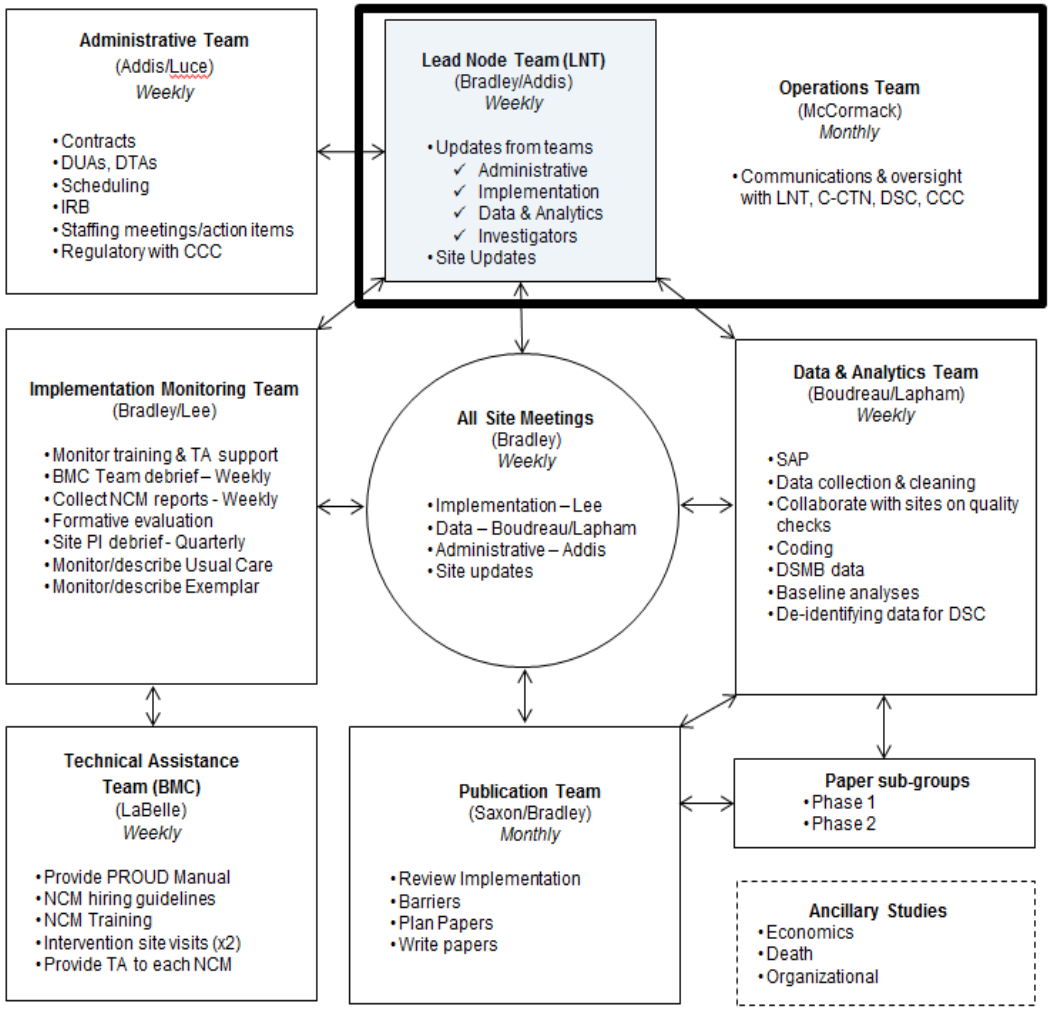
- Regulatory and data sharing requirements
- Availability of required secondary EHR data
- Leadership support for the trial in the health system
- Leaders of 2 PC clinics support participation
- 3 willing PC prescribers in each participating PC clinic
- Adequately sized clinics with low cross-over of patients
- Desirable: geographic, demographic, site diversity

PROUD Trial: Cluster Randomization



*or cluster IRB – Institutional review board; DUA – Data use agreement; DTA – Data transfer agreement; NCM – Nurse care manager; TA – Technical assistance; PC – Primary care

PROUD Trial: Organization



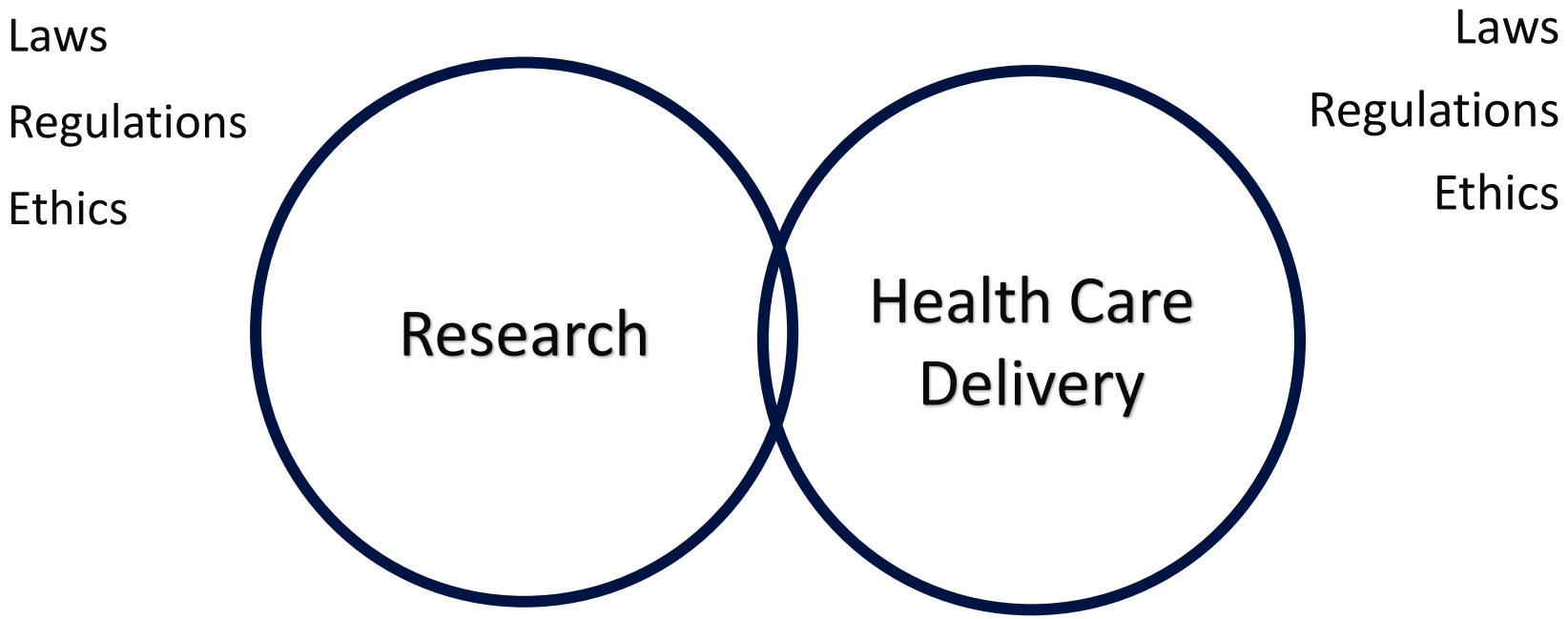
Small Group Activity: Communication Plan for PROUD

Communication Plan: Use the PROUD description and organizational structure (on next pages) as well as your real-world experience working in research to guide your work. What kind of communication plan would you create for PROUD? What things do you need to consider to create a plan? Develop a list of issues to consider, decide on a type of plan, and then discuss how you would approach drafting the plan.

Bonus (for fast groups):Briefly discuss your experience developing or using a communication plan for a study you've worked on. Or, an experience that made you wish you had one.

3. Ethical & Regulatory Issues

Traditional CTs and Health Care Delivery

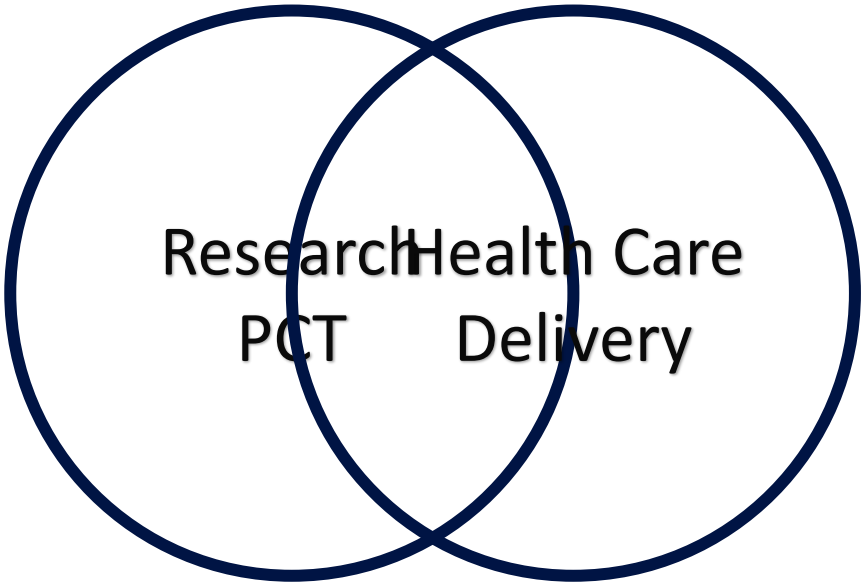


PCTs and Health Care Delivery

Laws

Regulations

Ethics



Laws

Regulations

Ethics

PCTs and Health Care Delivery

Laws

Regulations

Ethics

Laws

Regulations

Ethics

Navigating the Ethical & Regulatory Issues

- Provider responsibility to patient(s)
- Researcher responsibility to subject(s)/participant(s)
- Responsibility to funder(s)
- Responsibility to healthcare delivery system
- QI or Research?
- Human Subjects Review?
- Vulnerable populations
- HIPAA
- Privacy
- ct.gov
- DSMP/DSMB

Small Group Activity: Ethical and Regulatory Issues for PROUD?

As a group choose any ethical or regulatory issue(s) that might arise in the design and conduct of PROUD and discuss. Some possibilities:

PRACTICAL ISSUES	SLIGHTLY MORE ABSTRACT ISSUES
• *Should there be informed consent for the patients and/or providers in this study? Why?* • *Who should be credited as authors on the project? Why?*	• *How do providers' obligations to patient(s) differ from researchers' obligations to subject(s) in PCTs?* • *Does research team have any long-term obligations to the healthcare delivery system?*

References, Resources, and Thanks

RESOURCES

NIH Collaboratory: http://rethinkingclinicaltrials.org/

THANKS

Ella Thompson

PROUD team

NIH Collaboratory

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Key Differences PCTs and Quality Improvement

	Pragmatic Trials	Quality Improvement
Intent	Inform practice and policy by testing effectiveness in situ	Inform clinic decision making, improve care locally
Design	Test two or more real-world treatments using flexible protocols and local customization	Implementation of an intervention into care delivery
Setting	Usual care settings	Usual care setting. Local clinic(s) or hospital(s)
Population	Representative of patients in usual care setting	Patients in clinical care setting
Measures	Brief and designed so data can be easily collected in clinical settings	Outcomes are directly relevant to patients!