CGA/17/49 - SETTING RESEARCH PRIORITIES FOR IMPROVING PARTICIPANT RETENTION IN CLINICAL TRIALS: A CONSENSUS BASED MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH

Clinical trials produce the information we need to provide evidence-based healthcare. Thousands are done every year, but not all are useful. One thing that reduces their usefulness is poor retention: not managing to keep enough people in the trial until the end. It is common for trial participants to drop out before the trial finishes. Half of trials lose more than 10% (some more than 20%) of people before they finish. This seriously affects the credibility of trial results, significantly affects a trial's potential to improve healthcare practices and wastes money and time. Finding good ways to reduce drop out is now a research priority. However, the specific, most important questions that need answering to reduce drop out in clinical trials have not been identified. We want to develop a list of top research questions (generated from a collaborative process of trail participants and those undertaking trials working together) to form the basis of future research on retention to make more trials useful.