

HIPS/21/02 – Improving ethnic diversity in trials: helping trial teams recruit and retain the ethnic groups essential for results with community-wide relevance and applicability.

The results of trials will not have their full impact if part of the population is ignored or forgotten. Unfortunately, this is often the case for ethnic minority groups. We have recently developed a tool called the INCLUDE Ethnicity Framework (<https://www.trialforge.org/trial-forge-centre/include/>), which helps trial teams to think about how their design decisions might make it easy or difficult for some ethnic groups to take part. Feedback so far has been very positive and organisations that fund trials, such as the National Institute for Health Research, now include it in their guidance for researchers.

We now want to go further. Firstly, we want to help trial teams using the Framework to identify the proportion of people from different ethnic groups needed for the trial to be truly representative. This will drive their recruitment targets and plans. Secondly, we want to give them evidence-based strategies to help them achieve these proportions. Doing this will reduce inequality and increase confidence that the results of an expensive trial will help all those who could benefit, including people from ethnic minority groups.