

COVID-19 Research Implementation and Knowledge HUB

Intervention Trials Working Group

Team Leaders meeting - Minutes

Date: 03/09/2020

Location: Zoom

- **Mariam:** I have tried to incorporate Oscar & Mathildah's comments in this draft. We need to confirm the rationale and objectives etc before nailing the finer details. We need to outline the aspects of non-pharmacological interventions which we want to study. WHO launched a doc in March and updated it in May which suggested that any measures proposed can be categorised into 3. Our research should focus on the community and public health measures, eg social distancing, use of masks, movement restrictions. They have identified these. These can then be categorised into several levels (see protocol). We decided to assess the KAP resulting from these measures using a mixed method approach – quanti and in depth quali using FGDs/in depth interviews. I have now further progressed the proposed plan – based on what we find out we can propose an RCT to aim to improve uptake. When I looked at existing data I realised that there is very limited research on public health interventions per se. Any factor which increases uptake of these has not been researched. I also came across the BESSI platform which is essentially outlining the various kinds of public health and social interventions. The COMET initiative may also be useful – one of their goals is to develop a core outcome set looking at assessment of efficacy of PHIs; the current data provides no consensus on how to assess interventions. As we are not proposing a trial looking at these we can use COMET to inform what we wish to study in stages 1 and 1.1.
- **Julio:** I feel like I've lost some part of the discussion
- **Mathildah:** My immediate comment is to agree with you; I attended one of the COMET meetings where they discussed one of the broad base outcomes. I think it would be good to wait for that and see how it could fit in with our work. A database of PHIs would also be useful as you mentioned
- **Mariam:** Looked at a meta-analysis which pointed to the need for RCTs to assess interventions; systematic appraisal which was funded by WHO – they then used it to write guidance which they then issued. I think we should approach this in a staged way:

Stage 1: Literature review

looking at studies which explore impact of core public health measures. I have found 1 meta-analysis – if we can find several more we would have a good overview of where we stand. Look at role of CE in preventing transmission.

This stage would provide us with a strong basis and a comprehensive background setting of where we stand right now. This is something which I can hopefully complete by around mid-September. This is something we can report as a group and share with COMET and BESSI initiatives – it is important that there is collaboration between those in similar groups. If we share info with them from lit review on PHIs it is helpful to everyone.

Following that we can begin finalising the non-interventional part of the study; all we need to do is perhaps write an implementation protocol on how we would undertake that using a mixed method study, which is something I would like the group's help with as I don't have much experience in this. We could then pilot this in 2 different settings, eg here in my hospital in Pakistan and then in someone else. This pilot will serve as a good internal validation study for what we plan to do.

Stage 2: Development of platform trial which looks at various CE strategies aiming at enhancing uptake of PHIs.

- **Oscar:** Mariam, thanks for the draft concept note and I have lots of experience in qualitative research and I have access to communities to pilot the platform when read
- **Julio:** This work is taking good form Mariam, thank you very much. If you need any help with the quali component I can be of help. I would try to take
- **Mariam:** I think that we are getting clearer as we are moving forward
- **Festus:** I'd like to remind everyone that we are working on the 'KAP at community level' protocol in the Social Sciences Working Group. I'll be able to give comments after seeing the protocol.
- **Daide:** Great, Mariam can you suggest a timeframe for comments on this? Perhaps the 11th September? (Agreed). Then perhaps another call on the 17th or so.