



Investigating SLTs experiences and views of delivering LSVT and NHS standard therapy as part of their role in the PD COMM study

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ABSTRACT

(RCSLT Glasgow Sept 2017)

TITLE

Investigating SLTs experiences and views of delivering LSVT and NHS standard therapy as part of their role in the PD COMM study

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BACKGROUND

The PD COMM trial is a phase III multi-centre randomised controlled trial that aims to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of two approaches to speech and language therapy (SLT) compared to no SLT intervention (control) for people with Parkinson's disease who have self-reported or carer-reported problems with their speech or voice [1]. A process evaluation is underway alongside the PD COMM trial which aims to evaluate what went on at the time of the delivery of the trial interventions and to provide findings that will assist in the interpretation

of the PD COMM trial results. This process evaluation will: 1) Investigate therapists' experiences of delivering the PD COMM interventions, identifying the actual practices and likely tailoring that took place within the working context. 2) Investigate therapists' familiarity with LSVT and NHS standard SLT, their methods and procedures. 3) Identify therapists' learning over time and its potential impact on outcomes. 4) Explore therapists' expectations in terms of intervention impacts and their research role.

METHODS

Drawing from the Normalization Process Theory [2] a mixed method design will be used to answer process evaluation research questions. Therapists' perceptions, experiences and familiarity with the PD COMM interventions will be investigated via an online questionnaire and in-depth interviews. The interviews will be carried out at two time points: midway through therapists' involvement in the trial and at the end of their involvement, once they have treated their last PD COMM participant. This will be essential in order to unpick the impact that learning over time might have on therapists' role in delivering the PD COMM interventions. Also, all therapists will be asked to record key reflections in the form of 'critical incident reports'. Treatment record forms and copies of therapy notes will also be collected at relevant time points throughout the running of the PD COMM trial.

RESULTS

The PD COMM trial is registered with the National Institute for Health Research Health Technology Assessment programme (HTA 10/135/02). ISRCTN: 12421382 (Registered 18 April 2016). To date 17 sites have opened. Participant recruitment and process evaluation data collection is underway.

CONCLUSION

This process evaluation will provide a valuable insight into how PD COMM therapists go about their everyday job whilst carrying out their research role. By developing a clear account of the challenges and experiences of therapists involved in complex interventions rehabilitation trials process evaluations can play a vital role in increasing the researcher's understanding on why a complex intervention works or fails.

Three key learning outcomes for your submission:

1. To be able to actively discuss the vital role that speech and language therapists have in the running and success of randomized controlled trials

2. To be able to successfully explain and discuss the importance of investigating and understanding therapists perspectives in regards to their role in research and in contributing to the evidence base.
3. To make speech and language therapists aware of the PD COMM study in order to generate interest and potential engagement and enhance recruitment.

Brief outline for your submission:

This abstract reports on the process evaluation that is being carried out alongside the PD COMM trial. This process evaluation will investigate the experiences and views of the speech and language therapists in charge of delivering the two trial interventions: LSVT and NHS standard therapy.

Three key words:

Experiences, LSVT, RCT

References:

[1] Sackley, Catherine M et al. "Lee Silverman Voice Treatment Versus Standard NHS Speech And Language Therapy Versus Control In Parkinson'S Disease (PD COMM Pilot): Study Protocol For A Randomized Controlled Trial". *Trials* 15.1 (2014): 213-220.

[2] May, Carl et al. "Understanding The Implementation Of Complex Interventions In Health Care: The Normalization Process Model". *BMC Health Services Research* 7.1 (2007): 148-58.