



UNIQUAL

Nested Qualitative Research

Who we are:

The UNIQUAL team is based within the School of Nursing & Midwifery at the University of Sheffield. We undertake qualitative research embedded within RCTs and cohort studies.

What we do:

UNIQUAL works closely with study teams to provide insight from a user and patient perspective and improve trial effectiveness and feasibility.



Feasibility

Identifying barriers to interventions



Efficiency

Exploring study process to aid productivity and recruitment



Acceptability

Gaining insight into patient experience



Interpretation

Highlighting context and mechanisms to explain results



Impact

Working with policy and practice fields to aid implementation

The methods we use

The UNIQUAL team has expertise in a range of qualitative research approaches. These include:

- Thematic methods (such as Framework Analysis)
- Longitudinal studies
- Staff and other stakeholder insights
- Ethnographic work
- Creative and participatory methods

Our strengths:

UNIQUAL has a portfolio of projects that illustrate our contribution including conducting Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) and pre-protocol consultation, in-depth qualitative inquiry embedded in feasibility and full clinical trials. Where possible we employ participatory methods to maximize dissemination and impact.



Proficiency in a range of qualitative methods



The required theoretical knowledge to generate understanding of underpinning research processes



Expertise in participatory research approaches that embrace co-production and co-design methods



Experience of protocol development



Experience in the of creative research methods using art and design, alongside traditional qualitative approaches



Proficiency in uncovering and understanding the impact of relationships on health and in healthcare

How we can help you:

We will work with you to develop a bespoke qualitative study embedded within a larger trial. We provide here a brief description of exemplar studies to give an indication of approach and cost. These are indicative rather than fixed. The UNIQUAL team is happy to work with you to develop the right approach for your research goals and budget.

How UNIQUAL works

The UNIQUAL team has established an approach to develop and deliver a bespoke nested study for different research trials or programmes:

- Discuss as early as possible in the development of a trial or 'parent' study how to embed a qualitative study.
- Agree the design and cost of the qualitative study and incorporate this into a funding application.
- We will lead the qualitative study alongside the main trial and feedback to the trial management group at agreed intervals. Disseminate and generate impact in research conduct, patient care and service development

These examples provide an idea of how the UNIQUAL team work. Additional approaches and methods can be integrated into study designs including creative and artistic methods of data collection and dissemination.

EXAMPLE 1

A small feasibility study

In this context, UNIQUAL researchers would work in a nested study, incorporating interviews of participants. This would be to inform design of a full trial if the objectives of the feasibility stage are met. It would also provide information on how best to deliver an experimental intervention and help to identify ways to improve the experience of trial participation and enhance recruitment. A typical sample size would be 10-15.

An indicative cost for this work would be £30k over 6 to 12 months (plus FEC where appropriate).

EXAMPLE 2

A large clinical trial

In this example participants would be interviewed prior to receiving the intervention or prior to randomisation. Follow-up interviews would be conducted within the study timeframe to capture ongoing experiences and highlight any mismatch between expectations and experiences. Interview data would be triangulated with observations of key trial/treatment episodes, for example out-patient clinic appointments. Health professionals and researchers conducting the trial will also be interviewed to identify challenges and key messages from their perspectives on the research and related care provision.

An indicative budget for this more in-depth nested study would be £60k over 18 months (plus FEC where appropriate).

The UNIQUAL team

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