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POSTER PRESENTATION

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PARTNERS2: a protocol for the development of a core outcome set for use in mental health trials involving people with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder in a community setting

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From The 4th Meeting of the Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials (COMET) Initiative Rome, Italy. 19-20 November 2014

Background

Randomised controlled trials can provide robust evidence to inform clinical care of mental health service users. A core outcome set (COS) for use in research into schizophrenia and bipolar has the potential to reduce reporting bias and increase the ability of reviewers to synthesise results of randomised controlled trials. There is no core outcome set currently available for use in this research area.

The aim of this study is to develop a COS for use in research into schizophrenia and bipolar disorder in a community setting.

Materials and methods

A group of participants representing the key stakeholder groups, including service users, carers, health and social care professionals and commissioners, will be recruited from the United Kingdom.

Focus groups and one-to-one interviews, led by academic and service user researchers, will seek to identify clinical, social, psychological and physical outcomes that are important to key stakeholders. An iterative, constant comparative and thematic analysis will identify key outcomes and will be supplemented by outcomes identified through a review of literature.

An online, three round, Delphi study with key stakeholders will reduce the range of potential outcomes to a smaller core set. On completion of the Delphi Study a face-to-face consensus meeting will be held to ratify the final outcomes.

A systematic or rapid literature review will assess the properties of existing measures used in research with bipolar and schizophrenia populations. Measures identified will be matched with the outcomes from the Delphi study for consideration and confirmation at a later stakeholder meeting.

Conclusions

A COS represents the minimum measurement requirement for trials within a research area. It is anticipated that this work will increase the use of stakeholder relevant outcomes and improve our ability interpret and compare the results of studies involving people with schizophrenia and bipolar in a community setting.

This abstract is dedicated to the memory of Helen Lester, Professor of Mental Health at the University of Birmingham UK who led the PARTNERS-2 programme grant development and is sadly missed by colleagues.

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