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Patient recruitment and consent in difficult populations

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Good clinical practice and informed consent from patients are key pillars to the conduct of clinical trials. It is the responsibility of all researchers to ensure that the process of informed consent gives patients clear explanation of facts, implications, potential benefits and drawbacks of participating in a study. Clinical trials that involve patients who are acutely ill and receiving treatment can present a significant challenge to the researcher. Research in emergency medicine and critical care can pose many questions. When is the best time to approach patients or relatives? What is the best approach? How much information should be given? Should we approach next of kin? Who are personal consultee and professional legal representative? Should we retrospectively inform and consent patients who took part in research study? Drawing on past my own and my colleagues past experiences, I will present examples of recruitment strategies used in recruiting patients to emergency medicine, resuscitation, critical care and obstetric studies. I will discuss the waiver of consent for emergency medicine research. I will also highlight potential issues and pitfalls that can be avoided by taking correct steps in planning and protocol development stage.

Biography

Joyce Yeung completed her anaesthetic training at Warwickshire School of Anaesthesia. Her PhD into strategies to improve quality of cardiopulmonary resuscitation was awarded the first PhD fellowship from Resuscitation Council UK. She is an expert reviewer for International Liaison Committee for Resuscitation and regularly contributed to the international resuscitation guidelines. She is a member of Editorial board of *Resuscitation Journal* and a faculty speaker at European Resuscitation Council Scientific Symposium. She is a Clinician Scientist in Anaesthesia and an NIHR Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of Birmingham, and an honorary consultant in anaesthesia and critical care at Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust. As part of Perioperative, Anaesthesia, Critical Care and Trauma Trials (PACCT) group, she leads research studies in anaesthesia, critical care and resuscitation. Current research projects include the impact of anaesthesia on peri-operative outcomes, chronic pain, acute lung injury and education in resuscitation. Joyce is passionate about making research training more accessible for anaesthetic trainees and is the co-founder of West Midlands Trainee Research in Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Network (WMTRAIN) and a consultant advocate for Research and Audit Federation of Trainees UK (RAFT).

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