Module Title | Randomised Controlled Trials
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Module Code | HEA00034M
Module Level* | 7
Word Limit /Exam Duration | 2,500-3,000 words
Assessment Type(s) | Essay

Marking Criteria
Guidelines should be read in conjunction with the marking criteria guidance for the module level* noted above:
http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/student-intranet/exam-assess/markgrid/

Confidentiality
It is a breach of confidentiality to disclose any personal information about a patient, service user, colleague, staff or any other person or place that could in principle enable them to be identified. For further guidance please refer to the departmental policy on Confidentiality at the following link: www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/student-intranet/exam-assess/conduct/confidentiality/

Assessment Timing
The deadline for correctly presenting a submission is 4.30pm on the published submission date.
The submission deadline is published on the Programme Assessment Schedule available on the following link:
http://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/student-intranet/timetables/assessment-schedules/

Referencing
You must reference your work in accordance with departmental referencing guidelines which you can access via the following link: http://www.york.ac.uk/integrity/harvard.html

Assessment Guidance

Formative Assessments
Students will be asked to write bullet points or notes for a RCT of cranberry juice for urinary tract infection. They will receive qualitative feedback in terms of whether or not the key points of design were included. If they identified all the main design features of the RCT they will get an indication that should this be repeated for their main assignment they could expect a high mark. If they missed key features of the RCT this will be pointed out to them with advice that they need to address this for their main assignment.

Students will be given several sample size problems to complete between sessions. Their completed sheets will be returned and marked and they will be given a mark with those getting the highest mark being eligible for a prize (choice of text book around trial design or analysis).

Summative Assessment
The trial protocol can be of any intervention in health. But it must be feasible and ethical (e.g., we could not randomise people to start smoking or randomise children to be adopted).

To pass: the assignment must be clearly written and follow a logical structure and be of a RCT and justify why a RCT was needed to evaluate the proposed intervention. If you use the MRC guidance for writing a trial protocol then this will help the structure.

To get a good mark the student must:
- Demonstrate an appreciation of why a trial is needed (e.g., reference to a Cochrane review);
- Justify and calculate a sample size calculation;
- Address and appreciate potential post randomisation biases, such as ascertainment bias;
- Describe a sensible analysis plan;
- Reference appropriate methodological and empirical studies to justify the choice of particular RCT design (e.g. why did you chose a placebo control and not an active or open control?).

To get a high mark the student must:
- Use a complicated design correctly (students can be penalised if the design is flawed or inaccurately described), such as a cluster randomised trial (a high mark can still be achieved using a simple design if it is well written, referenced, and justified);
- Describe a detailed statistical analysis plan;
- Estimate the costs of the trial.