

# SWAT DISSEMINATION

**It is important that the results of Studies Within A Trial (SWATs) are made publicly available as quickly as possible so that researchers have up-to-date information on what strategies work or do not work.**

SWATs are often planned so that they can be repeated in other studies. Where a SWAT has been repeated on multiple occasions, researchers collect the information from each SWAT and analyse it together (a meta-analysis). This is important as it means there is a clear picture of how well the SWAT works or does not work.

## Identifying a journal that will publish a SWAT

- Most research is reported in dedicated online or physical resources, called journals. Some of these focus on certain topics, like health conditions (such as Cancer), or the type or research conducted (like Clinical Trials).
- Reporting SWATs in an online platform can be simpler and quicker than reporting in a journal. They are often cheaper to report in. An example of this is **F1000**.

- Not all journals accept SWAT reports. Some journals however have previously published SWATs and so may be more likely to accept SWAT reports.
- When a report combines the results of lots of SWATs together, this can make it more attractive to bigger journals.

## Writing up a SWAT publication

- The findings of a SWAT may be detailed within the main trial report or in a standalone dedicated report.
- It is often best to use a separate report as this means results can be made public quickly rather than having to wait until the host trial is ready to report all of its results.
- Sometimes researchers worry that reporting the SWAT results first can cause problems when they come to report the main trial, however, this is not usually the case.
- When researchers write reports, they are encouraged to use a checklist to ensure they report all the key information.
- A checklist for writing a SWAT report has been developed and is available from [trial-forge-swat-centre@york.ac.uk](mailto:trial-forge-swat-centre@york.ac.uk)

## Accessing funds to share SWAT results

- Lots of research funders ask that research is published so anyone can find and read the results. We call this 'open access'.
- Open access can be costly, however some funders make money available to researchers to help them to make their research available in this way.
- Where funding is not available, some universities and research groups may have agreements which make the costs less or even free.

