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NHS

National Institute for
Health Research

NIHR CRSU

Complex Reviews Support Unit

What Can We Help With?

CRSU & Cochrane Workshop

26th April 2018

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Department of Health Disclaimer:

The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of NIHR, NHS or the Department of Health

Complex Reviews Support Unit (CRSU)

- Funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
- To provide flexible, timely and appropriate support for successful delivery of **complex** reviews funded and/or supported by NIHR
 - including Cochrane reviews (with UK-based author)
- To contribute to building capacity and capability

What do we mean by Complex Reviews?

- Mahtani et al. (*BMJ Blog 2018*) defined a complex review as:

*“A systematic review consisting of **multiple components, large amounts of data from different sources, and different perspectives, united or connected, collectively contributing more than would be expected from their individual contributions; the components are not easily coordinated, analysed, or disentangled.**”*

What do we mean by Complex Reviews?

- No review is without complexity
- Expertise of CRSU primarily focused on methodological complexity (i.e. not clinical) but acknowledge some issues cross-cutting
 - e.g. combining studies with a degree of clinical heterogeneity
- Generally, operate on inclusiveness
 - i.e. we aim to help where we can!

Current challenges to complex reviews

- Increasingly complex clinical and policy questions to be answered
- Existing evidence often limited and heterogeneous
- Multiple treatment/intervention options with no head-to-head evidence
- Outcomes of interest have complex data structure

Expertise within CRSU

Key Areas of Support

- Diagnostic test accuracy (DTA) reviews
- Network meta-analysis (NMA)
- Individual participant data (IPD)/clinical study report meta-analysis

Other Areas of Support

- Economic evaluation
- Realist synthesis
- Qualitative reviews
- Use of routine data
- Non-randomised studies
- Prognostic reviews
- Prevalence reviews
- Causal pathway analysis

Support to date

- Cochrane Review Groups
- Cochrane Programme Grant holders
- Incentive Award scheme holders
- Training / Workshops
- *NIHR-funded projects*

Cochrane Review Groups

Protocol / Full reviews

- Airways
- Heart

Network meta-analysis

- Anaesthesia, Critical and Emergency Care
- Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology and Orphan Cancers
- Effective Practice and Organisation of Care
- Skin
- Wounds
- Hepato-Biliary
- Global Aging

Diagnostic Test Accuracy Meta-analysis

- Dementia and Cognitive Improvement

Sequential analysis / Using evidence synthesis to help inform the next study

- Wounds
- Pregnancy and Childbirth

Cochrane Programme Grants

- Applications & Award

Cochrane Review Group

- Airways
- Gynaecological, Neuro-oncology & Orphan Cancers
- Oral Health
- Tobacco Addiction
- Injuries
- Hepato-Biliary
- Neonatal
- Epilepsy
- Haematological Malignancies
- Eyes & Vision

Methods

- Network meta-analysis
- Regression models
- Diagnostic test accuracy
- Hierarchical modelling
- Prognostic reviews
- Non-statistical synthesis of quantitative data

Training / Workshops: Cochrane-focused

- Cochrane UK & Ireland Symposium
 - ‘Methodological Challenges in Complex Reviews’ (Birmingham 2016)
 - ‘Opportunities for Greater Impact An Organisational Perspective ’ (Birmingham 2016)
 - *‘Can Cochrane reviews take a more active role in informing the design of future trials?’* (Oxford 2017)
 - *‘Examples of collaborations with Cochrane Review Groups: assessment of complex interventions, test accuracy and network meta-analyses.’* (Oxford 2017)
- Cochrane review groups
 - *‘Sequential-meta-analysis’* (Cochrane Dementia and Cognitive Improvement Group, Oxford, 2016)
 - *‘New developments in DTA reviews’ ‘Network meta-analysis’* (Cochrane Stroke Group, Edinburgh, 2018)

Training / Workshops - Other

- *'Systematic reviews and meta-analysis of diagnostic test accuracy'* (with NICE Guidelines Support Group, London, 2017)
- *'Advanced diagnostic test synthesis'* (with NICE Guidelines Support Group, London, 2017)
- *'Meta-analysis of diagnostic test accuracy studies for healthcare policy and decision making'* (Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, 2017)
- *'Survival analysis: beyond proportional hazards'* (Royal Statistical Society Conference, Glasgow 2017)
- *'Challenges in doing narrative synthesis: issues and (some) solutions'* (Exeter, 2017)
- *'The role of the CRSU in supporting the successful delivery of complex reviews.'* (North West Evidence Synthesis Network Symposium, 2017)
- *'Using GRADE in public-health guidelines: challenges and some solutions?'* (Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, 2017)
- *'Methods for conducting syntheses (including different evidence, searching and information retrieval, statistics, assessing methodological quality)'* (Global Evidence Summit, Cape Town, 2017)

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Moira Aitken

CRSU

1 Lilybank Gardens

Glasgow

G12 8RZ

Telephone: 0141 330 6826

Email: moira.aitken@glasgow.ac.uk

Website: www.nihrcrsu.org

Twitter: @NIHRCRSU