

# How trial teams can use STEP UP recommendations to support diversity in clinical trials

This infographic shows a summary of **STEP UP's** recommendations, designed to help improve the accessibility of clinical trials for groups under-served by research.

## 1 RECRUITMENT AND SETTING

Trial teams must accurately reflect patient populations in clinical trials.

### They may choose to:

- Conduct equality impact assessments
- Include sites located in under-served areas
- Use baseline data to inform ongoing site selection
- Widen inclusion criteria where possible
- Use alternative recruitment pathways

**How could implicit eligibility criteria, such as the expectation to speak English, impact diverse participation in trials?**



## 2 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Working with people who have lived experiences of conditions is invaluable, but trial teams should also strive to engage with groups who are under-served by research.

### They may choose to:

- Include the perspectives of under-served groups in patient and public involvement initiatives from the design stage
- Build relationships with communities under-served by research.

**How can trial teams provide value to a community outside of a clinical trial?**



## 3 COMMUNICATION

Trial teams should use effective communication to build trusting relationships with under-served groups and to reduce power balances.

### They may choose to:

- Use simple, easy-to-understand language
- Tailor communications to the needs and preferences of different groups
- Use videos to supplement clinical trial materials in different languages if needed
- Ensure interpreters are available to translate throughout the trial
- Share trial outcomes with participants

**Would the use of 'easy-read' materials help encourage greater participation from people with learning disabilities?**



## 4 FLEXIBILITY

Trial teams should try to implement as much flexibility as possible throughout the trial.

### They may choose to:

- Provide flexibility in recruitment methods
- Consider alternative delivery methods
- Be flexible with times for clinic visits
- Consider alternative incentives

**Could the trial intervention be delivered more locally to the participant, such as in community venues or local GPs?**



## 5 RESEARCHER TRAINING AND HIRING STRATEGIES

Trial teams should all have a thorough understanding of the impact of racism, prejudice, and ableism in healthcare.

### Trial teams should:

- Be provided with cultural competency training
- Have a diverse range of backgrounds
- Be confident in communicating with patients who have disabilities

**How can trial teams build on their knowledge of racism to reduce implicit bias?**



## 6 DATA COLLECTION

Trial teams should ensure data is collected and shared in a way that promotes flexibility and trust with under-served groups.

### Trial teams may choose to:

- Collect demographic data of potential, lost, and current participants
- Identify trends to better understand why people from under-served groups drop out
- Allow different methods of data collection throughout the trial
- Allow for proxy completion to be carried out by friends or relatives
- Consider sub-group analysis

**How can alternative methods of data collection enable people with disabilities to participate in clinical trials?**



These recommendations are based on the findings of **STEP UP**. For more information about each recommendation, and to learn more about their considerations for implementation, please read the full report.