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Promoting seasonal influenza vaccination among community-dwelling older adults

Submission date	Recruitment status	[X] Prospectively registered
20/10/2024	No longer recruiting	[_] Protocol
Registration date	**Overall study status**	[_] Statistical analysis plan
21/10/2024	Ongoing	[_] Results
Last Edited	**Condition category**	[_] Individual participant data
09/04/2025	Infections and Infestations	[X] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
Older adults aged ≥65 years bear a disproportionate burden of influenza. Although free seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) is provided, the vaccination rate among community-dwelling older adults in Hong Kong remains suboptimal. This study aims to combine narratives and implementation intentions to improve SIV promotion.

Who can participate?
Senior adults aged ≥ 65 years who currently living in the community, and have not received SIV in the current season or made any appointment for SIV

What does the study involve?
A three-arm study is proposed to examine the effects of using a WhatsApp-based intervention combining narratives and implementation intentions in increasing the uptake of SIV in community-dwelling older adults, compared to two control conditions involving only narrative messages or topic-matched didactic messages.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
1. Benefits: Participants will learn more about influenza prevention and may engage in SIV and prevent themselves from influenza infection as a result. They will receive supermarket coupons as compensation for their participation.

2. Risks: There are no known risks associated with participating in this study. Completing the intervention and the evaluation surveys may cause fatigue among some participants.

Where is the study run from?
This study is managed by the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?
January 2024 to March 2026

Who is funding the study?
The General Research Fund of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council.

Who is the main contact?
Dr. Meiqi Xin, meiqi.xin@polyu.edu.hk

Contact information

Type(s)
Public, Scientific, Principal investigator

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Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)
Nil known

ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)
Nil known

Protocol serial number
15601623

Study information

Scientific Title
Combining biographical narratives and implementation intentions to promote seasonal influenza vaccination among community-dwelling older adults: a randomized controlled trial

Acronym
SILVER

Study objectives

Hypothesis 1: The BNII Group (an integrated intervention combining biographical narratives and implementation intentions) will have a higher influenza vaccination rate than the BN (a control condition involving only biographical narratives) Group, who will have a higher influenza vaccination rate than the DD Group (a control condition involving only didactic messages).

Hypothesis 2: The BNII and BN Groups will have higher attitudes, injunctive norms, perceived behavioral control, self-efficacy, and behavioral intention than the DD Group.

Hypothesis 3: The efficacy of BNII and BN, relative to DD, will be mediated through reduced resistance to persuasion.

Ethics approval required
Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)
approved 17/10/2024, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institutional Review Board (The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon, Hong Kong, 0000, Hong Kong; +852 2766 4831; benjamin.yee@polyu.edu.hk), ref: HSEARS20230308010-02

Study design
Three-arm randomized controlled trial

Primary study design
Interventional

Study type(s)
Prevention

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Prevention of seasonal influenza in community-dwelling older adults

Interventions
Community-dwelling older adults will be randomly allocated to three groups: (1) the BNII Group will receive an integrated intervention comprising biographical narrative messages and a complementary implementation intentions intervention (an intervention condition); (2) the BN Group will receive only biographical narrative messages (a control condition); (3) the DD Group will receive only didactic messages (a control condition). For all three groups, relevant intervention content will be delivered through instant messaging (WhatsApp). The intervention will last for 4-6 weeks.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
The uptake of seasonal influenza vaccination will be measured using a survey three months after the intervention

Key secondary outcome(s))

Perceptions of seasonal influenza vaccination, including attitudes, injunctive norms, perceived behavioral control, self-efficacy, and behavioral intention, measured using a structured questionnaire at baseline, immediately after the intervention, and three months after the intervention

Completion date
31/03/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Aged ≥ 65 years
2. Currently living in the community
3. Not received seasonal influenza vaccination (SIV) in the current season or made any appointment for SIV
4. Regularly use a smartphone (at least once a week)
5. Residing in Hong Kong in the future 6 months
6. Being able to read Chinese

Participant type(s)
Resident, Population

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Senior

Lower age limit
65 years

Sex
All

Key exclusion criteria
1. Not eligible for SIV according to official guidelines (e.g., a history of severe hypersensitivity to a previous dose of SIV or relevant components)
2. Having taken up SIV annually in the past 3 years
3. Not having the mental or cognitive capacity to take part in the study

Date of first enrolment
24/10/2024

Date of final enrolment
15/11/2025

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Hong Kong

Study participating centre
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
5/F, Core S, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hung Hom, Kowloon
Hong Kong
Hong Kong
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Sponsor information

Organisation
University Grants Committee

ROR
https://ror.org/00djwmt25

Funder(s)

Funder type
Research council

Funder Name
General Research Fund of the Hong Kong Research Grants Council

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan
The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study will be available upon request from Dr. Meiqi XIN (meiqi.xin@polyu.edu.hk)

IPD sharing plan summary
Available on request

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Participant information sheet	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes