

SWAP - Study of Work And Pain

Submission date 25/10/2012	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☐ Prospectively registered ☒ Protocol
Registration date 26/10/2012	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☒ Results
Last Edited 10/07/2018	Condition category Musculoskeletal Diseases	☐ Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

Recent government reviews highlighted that primary care is a key arena to address work-related issues in patients who experience pain. However, such a service has not been implemented in primary care before. The aim of this study is to test the clinical and cost-effectiveness of introducing a vocational advisor into GP practices to provide a structured approach to managing work-related issues in primary care patients with musculoskeletal pain problems.

Who can participate?

Adults aged 18 to 70 struggling with work or off sick from work due to musculoskeletal pain

What does the study involve?

Participating GP practices are randomly allocated to either the control group or the intervention group. Practices in the control group provide the best current care while the intervention practices provide the best current care and also access to the vocational advisory service. All participants are followed up at 4 and 12 months. Interviews are conducted with about 20 patients who have accessed the vocational advisory service.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Not provided at time of registration

Where is the study run from?

Four GP practices in the Primary Care Research West Midlands North area of South Staffordshire (UK)

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

July 2012 to January 2014

Who is funding the study?

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (UK)

Who is the main contact?

Sarah Lawton, Study Coordinator
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Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

13183

Study information

Scientific Title

Primary care management of work related issues in patients with musculoskeletal conditions

Acronym

SWAP

Study objectives

This study is a pilot randomised controlled cluster trial that will include up to 6 GP practices within Primary Care Research West Midlands North. We aim to recruit 360 patients aged between 18 and 70, 180 patients in each group. Information about the characteristics (pain, disability, psychological factors, employment, other health conditions) of these patients will be collected on postal questionnaires at baseline, and during one-year follow-up.

This pilot trial will inform us about the feasibility and acceptability of running a full-scale randomised trial, including information about the recruitment and response rates. In addition, the pilot involves interviewing GPs, Nurse Practitioners, patients and vocational advisors to assess their feedback and an early assessment of the costs of the vocational advice service and issuing GPs a brief questionnaire to explore experiences of the sickness certification process.

More details can be found at: <https://www.ukctg.nihr.ac.uk/trials/trial-details/trial-details?trialId=3230>

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

Staffordshire Research Ethics Committee, First MREC approval date 18/04/2012, ref: 12/WM/0020

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Randomised; Interventional; Design type: Treatment

Study type(s)

Treatment

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Musculoskeletal pain

Interventions

Vocational Advice Service.

Intervention Practices will consist of best current care as determined by the GP practice. In addition, a vocational advice service will be provided at each GP practice allocated to the intervention arm. GPs and Nurse Practitioners will be able to refer patients to the vocational advisor.

All patients (in both arms) will receive the same information about the research evaluation indicating that this consists of completing questionnaires at baseline, four months and twelve months from the date of identification."

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Work absence at baseline, 4 months and 12 months follow up

Key secondary outcome(s)

Measures of pain at baseline, 4 months and 12 months follow up

Completion date

31/01/2014

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Primary care consultants with musculoskeletal pain
2. Adults 18 to 70 years of age
3. Currently employed (paid)
4. Current sickness absence of less than 6 months duration, (either GP or self-certified absence) due to musculoskeletal pain OR

5. Patients assessed by the GP (or a nurse practitioner), during the consultation, as struggling with work due to musculoskeletal pain

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Adult

Lower age limit

18 Years

Sex

All

Key exclusion criteria

1. Patients with symptoms of possible serious pathology, requiring urgent medical attention
2. Patients unable to read and speak English (Information sheets, cover letters and questionnaires are in English). The postal questionnaires will have a contact name and telephone number that participants can call to discuss any difficulties or help required with completion of the consent form or the questionnaire. Potential participants will need to be able to understand the cover letter and information sheet which explains the study to them, before they can consent to take part. People who can speak English but not write English will however be included and their questionnaires will be completed by telephone. In addition, all interviews will be conducted in English.
3. Patients with serious mental health problems who are vulnerable and for whom participation in the study would be detrimental (at the GP's discretion)
4. Current pregnancy or those patients on maternity leave

Date of first enrolment

03/07/2012

Date of final enrolment

31/01/2014

Locations**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre

Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre
Newcastle-Under-Lyme
United Kingdom
ST5 5BG

Sponsor information

Organisation

Keele University (UK)

ROR

<https://ror.org/00340yn33>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Government

Funder Name

Programme Grants for Applied Research

Alternative Name(s)

NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research, PGfAR

Funding Body Type

Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype

National government

Location

United Kingdom

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The data sharing plans for the current study are unknown and will be made available at a later date.

IPD sharing plan summary

Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/01/2018		Yes	No
Protocol article	protocol	10/07/2014		Yes	No
Other publications	development and content of the intervention and training package	01/06/2019		Yes	No