

Culturally sensitive care for elderly immigrants through ethnic community health workers: the Voice of the Elderly Immigrants

Submission date 31/01/2013	Recruitment status No longer recruiting	☐ Prospectively registered ☒ Protocol
Registration date 27/02/2013	Overall study status Completed	☐ Statistical analysis plan ☒ Results
Last Edited 26/02/2021	Condition category Other	☐ Individual participant data

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

In our study, ethnic community health workers will act as liaison between elderly immigrants and local health care and social welfare services to make sure that treatment and care is more accessible for elderly immigrants. The aim is to find out how well this approach works. When we have evidence that this works well, the community health worker function can be further integrated into the existing local health care and welfare system.

Who can participate?

Elderly people aged 55 years and over, living independently (alone or with others), born in Turkey, Morocco, Moluccan Islands or a descendant of Moluccan immigrants born in the Netherlands and who lived in one of the Moluccan camps.

What does the study involve?

Our study aims to recruit 194 elderly immigrants. They will be randomly allocated to one of two groups: 97 to the intervention group and 97 to the control group. Participants in the intervention group are invited by community health workers to participate in the intervention programme that consists of four steps. (1) Participants participate in home visits conducted by community health workers in order to examine their health problems, barriers to health care and social welfare services and needs for adequate care. (2) Participants participate in problem focused working groups organized by community health workers to discuss commonly shared problems based on the home visits. (3) Participants co-operate with community health workers and providers of health care and social welfare services in finding solutions, creating and conducting improvement programmes (concrete initiatives necessary for providing care and social welfare services that meet the participants' health and social welfare needs). (4) Participants are involved in the implementation of the improvements programmes in the community. Participants are invited to face to face interviews at two points in time: a baseline interview within two weeks after the home visit by the community health worker and a follow-up interview 18 months after the baseline interview. Participants in the control group do not receive the visit of community health workers.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

Our study can contribute to the improvement of care for elderly immigrants by developing culturally sensitive care in which elderly people actively participate. No risks are involved for elderly participants.

Where is the study run from?

Our study has been set up by the University Medical Center Utrecht. We are carrying out the study in three (semi) urban residential areas in the Netherlands which all have a community of immigrants (Turks, Moroccans and Moluccans).

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

The recruitment started in October 2011. The study will be expected to be completed in December 2013.

Who is funding the study?

ZonMw, the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development.

Who is the main contact?

Professor Niek de Wit
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Contact information

Type(s)

Scientific

Contact name

Prof Niek de Wit

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number

11-138/C

Study information

Scientific Title

Culturally sensitive care for elderly immigrants through ethnic community health workers: development and effect study of a community-based intervention programme in the Netherlands

Acronym

VOICE

Study objectives

We developed an intervention programme in which ethnic community health workers act as liaisons between elderly immigrants and local health care and social welfare services. In this study we evaluate the effectiveness and the implementation of this intervention programme. We expect to find an increase in use of health care and social welfare facilities consumption, increase in perceived quality of life and decrease in reported number of functional limitations of elderly immigrants in the Netherlands.

Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)

We submitted our study protocol to the Medical Ethics Committee of the University Medical Center Utrecht (UMCU) if this study falls under the Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act (WMO). The committee judged that our study does not meet the WMO criteria and therefore is not subject to the WMO.

Primary study design

Interventional

Study design

Quasi experiment with a pre-post test design with an intervention group and control group in three (semi) urban residential areas

Study type(s)

Prevention

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Use of health care and social welfare facilities

Interventions

Our study aims to recruit 194 elderly immigrants (97 for the intervention group and 97 for the control group). The intervention group consists of Turks, Moroccans and Moluccans recruited by community health workers at three (semi) urban residential areas in the Netherlands. Controls are a matched group comparable in size and composition and live outside the three intervention sites. To assess the effectiveness of the intervention, the intervention group is compared with a group where no community health workers are introduced (no community health worker involvement is provided to controls). Data are collected at two points in time: a baseline assessment and a follow-up assessment 18 months after baseline assessment. The assessments are structured face-to-face interviews in the preferred language of the respondent (Dutch, Turkish, Malay, Moroccan-Arabic or Moroccan-Berber) performed by trained interviewers with a similar ethnic background as the participants.

Intervention Type

Other

Phase

Not Applicable

Primary outcome(s)

Use of health care and social welfare facilities is measured by self-reported care consumption at baseline and 18 months after baseline.

Key secondary outcome(s)

1. Perceived quality of life and is measured using the Short Form-12 (SF-12) and the EQ-5D+C.
2. Functional limitations are measured using the Katz-15.

Secondary outcomes are measured at baseline and 18 months after baseline.

Completion date

01/12/2013

Eligibility**Key inclusion criteria**

1. Aged 55 years and over
2. Living independently (alone or with others)
3. Born in Turkey, Morocco, Moluccan Islands or descendant of Moluccan immigrants born in the Netherlands and lived in one of the Moluccan 'camps'

Participant type(s)

Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Senior

Sex

All

Total final enrolment

201

Key exclusion criteria

Elderly people using care for severe psychiatric disorders are excluded from the study

Date of first enrolment

01/10/2011

Date of final enrolment

01/12/2013

Locations

Countries of recruitment

Netherlands

Study participating centre

UMC Utrecht, div. Julius Centrum

Utrecht

Netherlands

3508 GA

Sponsor information

Organisation

The National Care for the Elderly Programme - ZonMw (Netherlands)

ROR

<https://ror.org/01yaj9a77>

Funder(s)

Funder type

Research organisation

Funder Name

This study is funded by a grant from ZonMW, the Netherlands Organization for Health Research and

Funder Name

Development

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not provided at time of registration

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Results article	results	01/10/2014	26/02/2021	Yes	No
Protocol article	protocol	15/03/2013		Yes	No
Study website	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes