

WHAT'S IN AN APP? INCORPORATING AN AUTOMATED CONSENT PROCEDURE TO RECRUIT THOSE WHO USE METHAMPHETAMINE TO A HARM REDUCTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SMARTPHONE-BASED APPLICATION CLINICAL TRIAL.

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Introduction / Issues: The S-Check App was developed as a harm reduction and early intervention smartphone application for those who seeking an alternative approach to manage their methamphetamine use. An Australian-wide case-wait control randomised clinical trial was established to determine the feasibility and efficacy of the App. It was not feasible to recruit participants face-to-face or to send out recruitment materials. An automated system was developed to recruit participants through the App that fulfilled ethics approval obligations and also maintained participant anonymity.

Method / Approach: The traditional method of recruitment required personal contact and the signing of the consent form. Based on the premise that a smartphone is only accessible/owned by one individual, the study protocol was written in such a way that assured the institutional human research and ethics committee that recruitment via the App was an appropriate and practical means of recruitment without the need to obtain personal information. Individual ownership implied that the individual was agreeing to participate on their own accord.

Interactive screens would guide the individual through the consent process and the eligibility criteria. Randomisation, reimbursement and reminders were all programmed into the App which also eliminated the need to collect personal information.

Results: This methodology eliminates the need for direct contact and automates many of the arduous tasks associated with the recruitment process.

Discussions and Conclusions: Individual smartphone ownership is common and can be used as a surrogate for an individual's willingness and eligibility to participate in research. Survey-based studies can adopt this approach to improve the efficacy and timeliness of recruitment and participation.

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