



# Research Week 2023

## Qualitative review of recruitment barriers for IRB approved research protocols and development of solutions from the perspective of study coordinators

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### Keywords:

Humans, Goals, Prospective Studies, Policy

### Abstract:

Enrollment and retention of participants are essential for the successful completion of clinical research studies. However, there are many potential roadblocks that can interfere with successful recruitment for studies. These obstacles can take a variety of forms, depending on the kinds of recruitment tactics commonly utilized in each individual study. The purpose of this study is to identify the obstacles and explore strategies to overcome them, enabling future research studies to more effectively target those obstacles and devise effective solutions to limit the factors that contribute to setbacks. We interviewed study coordinators, who are on the front lines of enrollment and recruitment, to collect information regarding prospective tactics that study coordinators frequently see and are familiar with. We developed a standardized set of questions based on experience and conversations with recruitment specialists to gather qualitative data about barriers to enrollment. We adopted a semi-structured interview with study coordinators working on multiple types of studies in the Clinical and Translational Research Center unit at the Oregon Health Science University. The preliminary findings from our interview uncovered a wide variety of roadblocks that vary depending on the type of study being conducted. These barriers include finding populations that meet inclusion and exclusion criteria as well as finding the proper tools to reach target populations. The intensity varies depending on the extent of the study, the exclusion criteria, and the kind of research study being conducted. Coordinators routinely utilized a variety of recruitment methods and tools to best meet study recruitment goals. The information that was gathered and the conclusions that were reached can serve as a foundation for subsequent studies to develop policies that offer solutions to the challenges that researchers encounter.