

Trial design and development

- Identify evidence gaps and provide justification for a new or confirmatory trial
- Provide evidence regarding which agents are the best candidates for (further) evaluation
- Assess the underlying evidence to re-evaluate drugs for use in other settings (re-purposing)
- Inform selection of appropriate:
 - Comparator arms; trial population and effect size(s) to target; relevant outcomes to collect
- Encourage the design and launch of new trials via systematic review collaborations

Trial conduct and analysis

- Consider the external evidence accumulating during course of trial to inform trial amendments
- Maintain the relevance of ongoing and/or long-term trials via research recommendation(s)
- Prospectively influence the conduct of ongoing new trials e.g. by encouraging accrual
- Inform the adjustment (stratification) of trial analyses e.g. by relevant risk groups

Trial reporting

- Place the results of completed trials in the context of other, similar trials
- Encourage publication of unpublished trials (usually included in IPDMA)

Clinical practice and healthcare policy

- Help to resolve uncertainty about particular treatment interventions
- Inform the targeting of treatment to those patients who would benefit the most
- Help guideline developers to make evidence-based recommendations
- Identify areas where research is lacking in order to inform funding needed for future research