

# The importance of *collaborative* working across the health board to deliver an urgent public health study effectively.

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## Situation

In May 2021, the Cardiff & Vale ID Research Delivery Team were approached to deliver an urgent public health study called ComFluCOV. A phase IV, participant blinded, UK multi-centre randomised controlled trial (RCT) focusing on the safety and immune responses of combining a COVID-19 vaccine concurrently with the seasonal Flu Vaccine with a short recruitment period.

The nature of the study design dictated both a high level of multi-disciplinary-team working and inter-site working in order to deliver this effectively. In order to tie in with the normal vaccination process, it was to be led in the mass vaccination centre (MVC) utilising staff from many areas including non-research staff. This poster describes the challenges and how they were overcome, with a focus on inter-disciplinary working across primary and secondary care.



## Challenges

- Delivering a study to run across both primary and secondary care.
- Lack of access to trial population due to pandemic.
- Impact on research portfolios due to working on different sites.
- Restricted time to set up the study.
- Large recruitment numbers, small study visit windows.
- Research naive Mass Vaccination Centre Staff (MVCS).
- Different training requirements & skill sets which impacted allocation of roles.
- Conducting research at a non-hospital site with limited space within a busy environment.
- Implementing research specific labs and pharmacy procedures including storage and blinding at a different location (non-hospital).

COMFLU  
COV



## Solutions

- Forged relationships via early regular meetings with primary care staff.
- Open communication between teams to problem solve.
- Pooled resources between teams within the Clinical Research facility to ensure that usual studies could continue, as well as staffing an extra site.
- Liaised with HCRW and utilised their booking team and text message system in order to offer the trial to patients attending the mass vaccination site.
- Fast Track basic research training programme developed in order to allow primary care MVCS to assist with limited procedures involving administration of blinded medication.
- Pharmacy and lab adaptations were assisted by liaising with Clinical Trials pharmacy, arranging site visits and creating new procedures for use in the study.

## Outcomes

- Developed strong working relationships between both primary and secondary care which enabled the effective delivery of the study.
- Raised the profile of clinical research studies across sites within Cardiff & Vale and demonstrated that research is critical for improving healthcare.
- Demonstrated flexibility in the study set up process, ability to work under pressure effectively and in a different environment.
- Increase feasibility of conducting future similar studies (multiple offers of vaccination studies since).
- Development of clinical skills which has helped to enhance delivery of future more complex trials.
- Patients given opportunities to contribute to research.
- Impacted national policy regarding the vaccination programme for dual administration.
- 97% of participants said they would be willing to have two vaccines at the same appointment in the future (CVUHB 2021).



## References

-CVUHB (2021) Cardiff research participants play vital role in showing safety of simultaneous COVID-19 and flu vaccines. Available from: [Cardiff research participants play vital role in showing safety of simultaneous COVID-19 and flu vaccines](https://www.cardiffandvale.ac.uk/news/cardiff-research-participants-play-vital-role-in-showing-safety-of-simultaneous-covid-19-and-flu-vaccines) - Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (nhs.wales) [Accessed 24 Feb 2023]  
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