BACKGROUND

* For clinical trials or patient care, reports from a proxy are needed to ascertain incident Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) and dementia.
* A proxy is a person who is trusted by trial participants or patients and familiar with their cognitive function over time.
* We analyzed the relationship between the use of a proxy and the successful adjudication of dementia or MCI diagnosis in two clinical trials: PRagmatic EValuation of evENTs and Benefits of Lipid lowering in oldEr adults (PREVENTABLE) and Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention (SPRINT).

METHODS

* PREVENTABLE participants were required to identify at least one proxy while SPRINT participants were asked, but not required to.
* Cognitive assessments were adjudicated using cognitive testing, completed by the participant, as well as proxy completion of the Functional Activities Questionnaire (FAQ) and Dementia Questionnaire (DQ).
* We collapsed proxy relationships into seven categories and computed the proportion of proxies in each category at baseline, how frequently the same proxy relationship was retained to the last visit, and the frequency of successful proxy contact during the trial. We also examined the distribution between proxy relationship and adjudicated cognitive outcome.