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EFFECTS OF ADVANCED TRAUMA LIFE  
SUPPORT<sup>®</sup> TRAINING COMPARED TO  
STANDARD CARE ON ADULT TRAUMA  
PATIENT OUTCOMES: A CLUSTER  
RANDOMISED TRIAL

Clinical Trial Protocol  
Version 0.8.0, 2024-03-06

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## **1 Changelog**

After version 1.0.0 is approved, all major and minor version updates to the protocol will be documented here. A full changelog will also be kept separately, that documents all “patch” updates as well (for example spelling and grammar edits).

## 2 Synopsis

**Title** Effects of Advanced Trauma Life Support® Training Compared to Standard Care on Adult Trauma Patient Outcomes: A Cluster Randomised Trial

**Rationale** Trauma is a massive global health issue. Many training programmes have been developed to help physicians in the initial management of trauma patients. Among these programmes, Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) is the most popular, having trained over one million physicians worldwide. Despite its widespread use, there are no controlled trials showing that ATLS® improves patient outcomes. Multiple systematic reviews emphasise the need for such trials.

**Aim** To compare the effects of ATLS® training with standard care on outcomes in adult trauma patients.

**Primary Outcome** All-cause mortality within 30 days of arrival at the emergency department.

**Trial Design** Batched stepped-wedge cluster randomised trial in India.

**Trial Population** Adult trauma patients presenting to the emergency department of a participating hospital.

**Sample Size** 30 clusters and 4320 patients.

### Eligibility Criteria

*Hospitals* are secondary or tertiary hospitals in India that admit or refer/transfer for admission at least 400 patients with trauma per year.

*Clusters* are one or more units of physicians providing initial trauma care in the emergency department of tertiary hospitals in India.

*Patients participants* are adult trauma patients who presents to the emergency department of participating hospitals and are admitted or transferred for admission.

**Intervention** The intervention will be ATLS® training, a proprietary 2.5 day course teaching a standardised approach to trauma patient care using the concepts of a primary and secondary survey. Physicians will be trained in an accredited ATLS® training facility in India.

**Ethical Considerations** We will use an opt-out consent approach for collection of routinely recorded data. We will obtain informed consent for collection of non-routinely recorded data, such as quality of life and disability outcomes. Patients who are unconscious or lack a legally authorized representative will be included under a waiver of informed consent. Note that consent here refers to consent to data collection.

**Trial Period** October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2029

### 3 Background and rationale

Each year, 4.3 million people die from trauma<sup>1</sup>. Among people aged 10-24 and 25-49 years trauma is the largest cause of disability adjusted life years<sup>2</sup>. Most deaths from trauma occur within the first 24-48 hours<sup>3</sup>. Traumatic brain injury and exsanguination are the most common causes of trauma deaths<sup>4,5</sup>. Most preventable trauma deaths are caused by clinical judgement errors during initial resuscitation or early care including airway management and haemorrhage control, even though the deaths occur later during the hospital stay<sup>4,6</sup>.

Several trauma life support training programmes have been developed to improve the early management of patients in the hospital by providing a structured framework for assessment and treatment<sup>7-10</sup>. The proprietary Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) is the most established trauma life support training programme and more than one million physicians in over 80 countries have been trained in the programme since the first course in 1978<sup>11</sup>. In the US and many other countries training in ATLS® is virtually mandatory for trauma care physicians<sup>12</sup>. Uptake in low- and middle income countries (LMIC) has been slow, potentially due to high costs<sup>9</sup>.

There are three randomised controlled studies showing that ATLS® improves knowledge and clinical skills<sup>13-15</sup>, but there are no randomised controlled trials or high-quality quasi-experimental trials indicating that ATLS® improves patient outcomes<sup>7,8,10</sup>. We conducted an updated systematic review for project (unpublished), and estimated a pooled risk ratio of 0.82 (95% CI 0.60; 1.11) from ten heterogeneous ( $I^2$  0.91) retrospective or small studies on the effect of ATLS on mortality (see Figure 1)<sup>16-25</sup>. No study assessed functional outcomes.

We conducted a pilot cluster randomised controlled trial (ClinicalTrials.gov NCT05417243) that we conducted between April 2022 and February 2023 as part of our network grant to assess the feasibility of a full scale trial. We published the protocol for this pilot study<sup>26</sup>. Our pilot study enrolled 376 patients from seven hospitals across India (unpublished data) and shows that it is feasible to conduct the proposed trial with a high percentage of patients consenting to out of hospital follow up (78%), low loss to follow-up rate (1%), and low missingness in key variables (mean 0.8%).

To involve patients and the public in the planning of this trial we conducted 19 semi-structured interviews with trauma patients, caregivers, and community representatives (unpublished data). The aim of these interviews was to understand their views on the trial and important outcomes and the interviews showed high acceptability of our research and emphasised the importance of better recovery before discharge and functional outcomes at and after discharge, including pain, mobility and self-care activities. The interviews also highlighted return to work as an important outcome.

### 3.1 Updated systematic review

We performed a systematic literature search in the Medline, Embase, Cochrane, Web of Science, CINAHL and Google Scholar databases (PROSPERO ID CRD42022373977). The last search was conducted on November 11, 2022. We developed the search strategy in Medline (Ovid) in collaboration with librarians at the Karolinska Institutet University Library. We limited the search to English language articles, searched all databases from inception, and screened a total of 7896 records. We used a random effects model to pool estimates across studies.

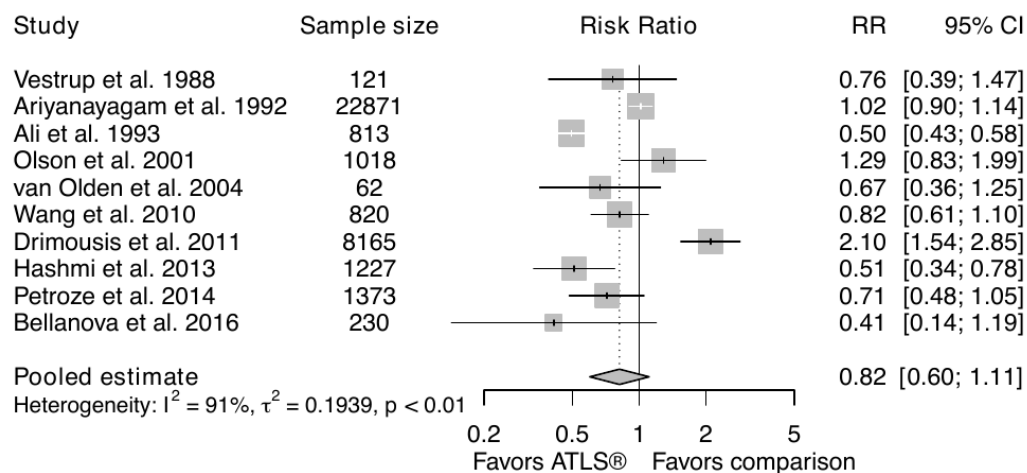


Figure 1: Summary of the updated system review. The forest plot shows the effect of ATLS on mortality. Abbreviations: RR, risk ratio; CI, confidence interval; ATLS, Advanced Trauma Life Support;  $I^2$ , heterogeneity.

## 4 Benefit-risk evaluation

The direct risks includes integrity violations and data leakage. We will mitigate these risks by employing rigorous data collection and storage mechanisms. The procedures that we will use to collect data will be direct observation of care, routine physical examinations, questionnaires, and extraction of already collected data from patient records, which are often seen as involving only minimal risk.

The long-term risks of the research and the risk that the research will be used in detrimental ways are minimal. Our trial will assess the effect of Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) on patient outcomes. Training in ATLS® is standard in many health



care systems and it is unlikely that training physicians in this programme induces any harm to participants.

We consider these risks weighed up by the potential direct benefit for the participants in the intervention phase, if ATLS® is found to improve patient outcomes, and by the potential for improved care for the trauma patient population.

## 5 Trial aim

To compare the effects of ATLS® training with standard care on outcomes in adult trauma patients.

## 6 Regulatory approvals and trial registration

We will submit this trial to the Health Ministry Screening Committee at the Indian Council for Medical Research for their approval. We will apply for ethical approvals from each participating hospital, The George Institute for Global Health in India and the Swedish Ethical Review Authority. We will register this trial with Clinical Trials Registry-India and ClinicalTrials.gov.

## 7 Trial design and procedures

### 7.1 Overall trial design

We will conduct a batched stepped-wedge cluster randomised controlled trial (see Figure 2). The stepped-wedge trial is a uni-directional cross-over trial but the time point when clusters cross-over from standard care to the intervention is randomised<sup>27</sup>. Each cluster will be at least one unit of physicians performing initial resuscitation of trauma patients in the emergency department of tertiary hospitals in India. The number of units that we will train in each hospital will depend on the sizes of these units and the volumes of patients that they see. If more than one unit is trained in the same hospital these units will be considered one unit for the purpose of randomization. We choose this approach for two reasons: 1) it will not be logistically or financially feasible to train all physician in a given hospital; and 2) we need to balance cluster size with the number of clusters. We will conduct this trial in India because physicians providing initial trauma care in India are so far not routinely trained in ATLS® or similar programmes.

We will roll out the interventions to 30 clusters over six batches, so there will be five clusters in each batch. The clusters in each batch will be randomised to one of five implementation sequences, with one hospital randomised to each implementation sequence.

All clusters will transition through three phases, first a standard care phase, then a one month transition phase during which the training is delivered, and finally an intervention phase, for a total of 13 months. The implementation sequence determines how long the phases of standard care and intervention are. Patient participants will be followed up for a total of three months.

## 7.2 Design justification

We use the cluster randomised design because the intervention cannot be randomised at the individual patient level. We use the stepped-wedge design for two reasons. First, this design is statistically more efficient than the parallel cluster design when the number of clusters is limited<sup>28</sup>. In this trial, the number of clusters is limited because of the costs associated with ATLS<sup>®</sup> training and the available slots for ATLS<sup>®</sup> training in India. Second, the stepped-wedge design is likely to enhance participation and engagement because all clusters receive the intervention. The batched stepped-wedge design further improves feasibility as it does not require all clusters to start at the same time, and it is robust to potential delays in cluster recruitment<sup>29</sup>.

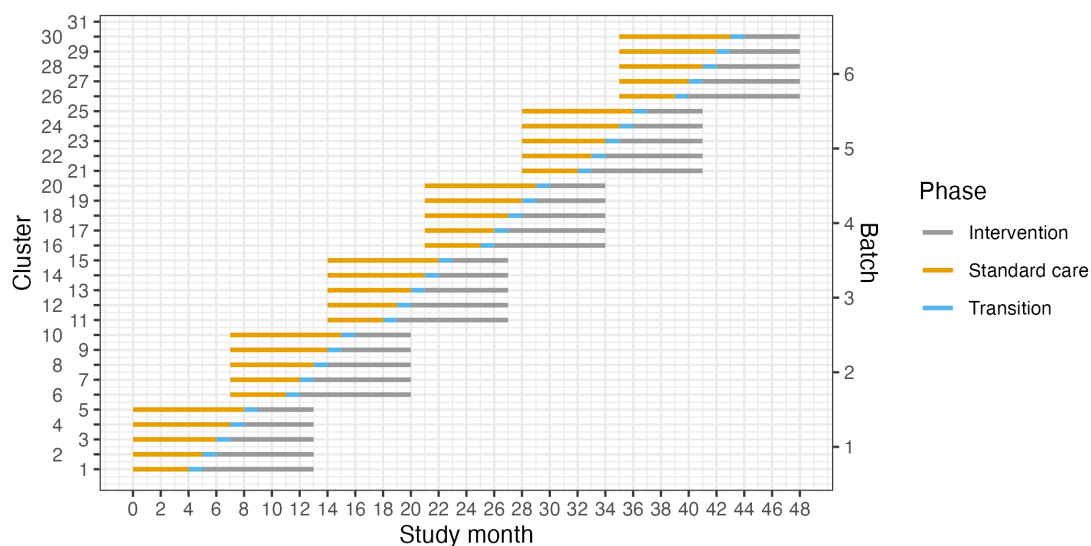


Figure 2: Trial design. Lines represent the duration of patient enrolment across clusters and phases. Clusters will be sequentially allocated to a batch based on when they enter the study. Within each batch clusters will then be randomised to an intervention implementation sequence.

### 7.3 Eligibility criteria

Our trial include eligibility criteria on three levels: hospitals, clusters and patient participants. We include eligibility on both the hospital and cluster level to facilitate the screening process.

### 7.4 Hospital selection

Hospitals will be secondary or tertiary hospitals providing trauma care in India. Hospital will be the unit of randomisation.

#### 7.4.1 Inclusions criteria

**Hospitals** must meet the following criteria:

- admit or refer/transfer for admission at least 400 patients with trauma per year or 35 patients with trauma per month for at least the last six months;
- provide surgical and orthopaedic emergency services around the clock; and
- have at most 25% of physicians providing initial trauma care trained in a formalised trauma life support training programme, like ATLS® or Primary Trauma Care (PTC).

#### 7.4.2 Exclusion criteria

**Hospitals** are excluded if they meet any of the following criteria:

- the hospital of the cluster implements a formalised trauma life support training programme <sup>1</sup> during the trial period; or
- the hospital of the cluster plan to implement or implements other major interventions<sup>2</sup> that affects trauma care during the trial period.

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<sup>1</sup>These include but are not limited to the National Emergency Life Support (NELS) programme, the Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS) programme, the Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS) programme, the Trauma Nursing Core Course (TNCC) and the Advanced Trauma Care for Nurses (ATCN) programme.

<sup>2</sup>These include but are not limited to implementing of a trauma team approach, opening a trauma centre and implementing a trauma quality improvement programme.

### 7.4.3 Screening

The trial management group will compile a list of hospitals with potentially eligible clusters and reach out to them to assess their interest in participating in the trial. We will then screen hospitals for eligibility based on the criteria above, using a two-step procedure. First, we will approach hospitals to complete an initial hospital screening instrument (see Appendix Section 19.1). We will then discuss each eligible hospital individually in the Trial Management Group before deciding whether to include it in the trial. We have this discussion because we strive to include hospitals that to a large extent conducts primary resuscitation of trauma patients, rather than hospitals that primarily receives transferred patients from other hospitals, but this is difficult to formalise in the eligibility criteria. We will then perform a more in-depth interview with selected hospitals (See Appendix Section 19.2). To avoid excluding centres we will also discuss plans to implement other potentially competing interventions during the trial period, and take these plans into account when assigning clusters to batches. For example, we are aware of the ongoing implementation of the National Emergency Life Support (NELS) programme in India, and will therefore not include hospitals that plan to implement this programme during the trial period. All screening steps and decisions will be logged using REDCap<sup>30,31</sup>.

## 7.5 Cluster selection

Clusters are one or more units of physicians providing initial trauma care in the emergency department of secondary or tertiary hospitals in India. These units already exist in the hospitals and rotate through the emergency department on specific days of the week.

### 7.5.1 Inclusion criteria

**Clusters** must meet the following criteria:

- admits or refers/transfers for admission at least 12 patients with trauma per month for at least the last six months; and
- no more than 25% of physicians providing initial trauma care trained in a formalised trauma life support training programme.

### 7.5.2 Screening

The screening of clusters is part of the hospital screening process.

## 7.6 Patient participants selection

Patient participants are adult trauma patients who presents to the emergency department of participating hospitals and are admitted or transferred for admission.

### 7.6.1 Inclusion criteria

**Patients participants** must meet the following criteria:

- age of at least 15 years;
- trauma occurred less than 48 hours before arrival at the hospital;
- present to the emergency department of participating hospitals, with a history of trauma defined as having any of the reasons listed in the International Classification of Diseases chapter XX as the reason for presenting;
- admitted, or died between arrival at the hospital and admission, or referred/transferred from the emergency department of a participating hospital to another hospital for admission; and
- managed by a participating cluster in the emergency department.

### 7.6.2 Exclusion criteria

**Patients participants** are excluded if they meet the following criteria:

- present with isolated limb injuries; or
- are directly admitted to a ward without being seen by a physician in the emergency department.

### 7.6.3 Screening

Clinical research coordinators will screen patient participants either as they arrive to the emergency department or using emergency department registers. The patients or their representatives will receive written information about the study before they are discharged, including about their right to opt out at any time before final analysis. Phone numbers for out of hospital follow up will be extracted from the emergency department registers, and will be securely held only by the clinical research coordinators at each sites.

#### 7.6.4 Withdrawal criteria

Patient participants can choose to withdraw their consent for collection of non-routinely recorded data at any time before the final analysis. If they withdraw their consent for this data collection the clinical research coordinator will not collect any more of this data, which also means that no further follow-ups will be conducted. They can also choose to have the data already collected about them removed from the trial at any time before final analysis of the data. Withdrawal of consent or removal of data from the trial will not affect their care in any way. If the patient participant withdraws consent, follow-up of this participant will be performed according to the participating hospitals routine.

### 7.7 Procedures

Table 1 shows an overview of trial procedures. Clinical research coordinators will follow up patients daily until discharge to capture injury information. They will also follow up patients at 24 hours, 30 days and 90 days after arrival to the emergency department to capture mortality outcomes, and at 30 days and 90 days after arrival to the emergency department to capture functional outcomes and return to work. If patient participants are discharged before any of these follow-up time points, clinical research coordinators will follow up patients by phone.

Table 1: Overview of trial procedures

| Procedure                                | Screening | Follow up |                            |         |         |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------------------|---------|---------|
|  |           | Discharge | Within 7 days of discharge | 30 days | 90 days |
| Eligibility criteria                     | ✓         |           |                            |         |         |
| Study information <sup>1</sup>           | ✓         |           |                            |         |         |
| Informed consent <sup>1</sup>            | ✓         |           |                            |         |         |
| Baseline data collection                 | ✓         |           |                            |         |         |
| ED data collection <sup>2</sup>          |           | ✓         |                            |         |         |
| Hospital data collection                 |           | ✓         |                            |         |         |
| Surgery data collection <sup>3</sup>     |           | ✓         |                            |         |         |
| Imaging data collection <sup>3</sup>     |           | ✓         |                            |         |         |
| Transfusion data collection <sup>3</sup> |           | ✓         |                            |         |         |
| Injury data collection <sup>3</sup>      |           | ✓         |                            |         |         |
| Mortality data collection <sup>3</sup>   |           | ✓         | ✓                          | ✓       | ✓       |
| Assessment of safety events <sup>3</sup> |           | ✓         |                            |         |         |
| EQ-5D/WHODAS                             |           |           | ✓                          | ✓       | ✓       |
| Return to work                           |           |           |                            | ✓       | ✓       |
| End of study                             |           |           |                            |         | ✓       |

<sup>1</sup>Clinical research coordinators will inform patient participants about the study, including that they are free to withdraw their data from the study at any time, and approach them for informed consent for collection of non-routinely recorded data in person or telephonically.

<sup>2</sup>Emergency Department

<sup>3</sup>Will be ascertained daily from when the patient participant arrive to hospital until they leave the hospital, are discharged or die.

## 7.8 Biological sampling procedures

This trial does not include biological sampling.

## 7.9 End of trial

The trial ends when the last patient participant has completed the last follow-up. The trial may be prematurely terminated if it this is necessary for safety reasons affecting the risk-benefit balance or if the recruitment of subjects cannot be met within reasonable time limits. If the trial is prematurely terminated or suspended, the investigator should immediately inform the subjects about this and ensure appropriate treatment and follow-up. Decisions on premature termination are taken by the Joint Trial Steering and Data Monitoring Committee and Trial Management Group.

## 7.10 Intervention and control treatment

The intervention will be ATLS® training. The control will be standard care, meaning no formal trauma life support training. We will train the physicians that initially resuscitate and provide trauma care during the first hour after patient arrival at the emergency department. These physicians can be casualty medical officers, surgical residents, or emergency medicine residents, depending on the setup at each participating centre. The training will occur during the transition phase in each cluster. Our experience from our pilot study is that study sites adhere to the training slot allotted to them through the trial, so we judge the risk of clusters implementing ATLS® before their randomised implementation sequence as very low.

We will train the number units of physicians needed to reach the required patient sample size, but estimate that this will require training an average of ten physicians per hospital, which on average should be mean that we can train one to two units per hospital. This is possible because many hospitals in India organise physicians staffing their emergency departments in units, and the physicians in the same unit work together in the emergency department on the same days of the week. We will therefore collect data only on the days when these units work. The units selected to constitute a cluster from each hospital will be a convenience sample out of all eligible units in those hospitals.

**Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®)**<sup>11</sup> is a proprietary 2.5 day course teaching a standardised approach to trauma patient care using the concepts of a primary and secondary survey. The programme was developed by the Committee of Trauma of the American College of Surgeons. The course includes initial treatment and resuscitation, triage and interfacility transfers. Learning is based on practical scenario-driven skill stations, lectures and includes a final performance proficiency evaluation. Physicians will be trained in an accredited ATLS® training facility in India.

**Standard care** varies across hospitals in India, but trauma patients are initially managed by casualty medical officers, surgical residents, or emergency medicine residents. They are mainly first- or second-year residents who resuscitate patients, perform interventions and refer patients for imaging or other investigations. Compared with other settings where a trauma team approach is adopted, nurses and other healthcare professionals are only involved to a limited extent during the initial management.

#### **7.10.1 Description of investigational medicinal products**

This trial does not include any investigational medicinal products.

#### **7.10.2 Auxiliary medicinal products**

This trial does not include any auxiliary medicinal products.

#### **7.10.3 Concomitant use of other medications or treatments**

Other than implementing another formalised trauma life support training programme or other major interventions to change the care of trauma patients as specified in the exclusion criteria, concomitant use of other medications and treatments may be provided at the discretion of the investigators and will not be considered an exclusion criterion.

### **7.11 Randomization**

We will assign clusters to batches as they are found to be eligible and receive ethical approval. Batches will include clusters from hospitals in different regions to optimize trial logistics. We will randomize the clusters allotted to each batch to the different intervention implementation sequences within that batch<sup>3</sup>. We will balance the randomization within each batch on cluster size, defined as monthly volume of eligible patient participants, using covariate constrained randomization. The cluster sizes are expected to vary between 12 and 20 patients per month, based on our previous experiences. We will

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<sup>3</sup>Randomization will be done using bespoke code from previous trials.



conceal the randomization order for as long as it is logistically possible, considering that arrangements for sending physicians to ATLS® training need to be made in advance.

## 7.12 Blinding

It is not possible to blind a stepped-wedge trial, because all clusters receive the intervention.

## 7.13 Treatment after trial end

When the trial ends, the intervention will have been implemented in all clusters.

## 7.14 Outcomes

### 7.14.1 Primary outcome

The primary outcome will be all-cause mortality within 30 days of arrival at the emergency department. Clinical research coordinators will extract information on death from patient hospital records, by calling the patient or a patient representative, or if the patient has been transferred to another hospital by contacting the hospital to which the patient was transferred. Data on this outcome will be collected continuously during the trial. We chose this outcome as the primary outcome instead of in-hospital mortality because in-hospital mortality would not capture deaths in patients who are transferred to another hospital for admission.

### 7.14.2 Secondary outcomes

- All cause mortality within 24 hours and three months of arrival at the emergency department. Data on this outcome will be collected in the same way as for the primary outcome.
- In-hospital mortality within 30 days of arrival at the emergency department. Data on this outcome will be collected in the same way as for the primary outcome.
- Quality of life within seven days of discharge, and at 30 days and three months of arrival at the emergency department, measured by the official and validated translations of the EQ5D3L. Data on this outcome will be collected in person if the patient is still in hospital, or by phone if the patient has been discharged. We will collect this data from a stratified random sample (site and period) of patient participants. The sampling will be designed so that it maximises statistical efficiency.

- Disability within seven days of discharge, and at 30 days and three months of arrival at the emergency department, assessed using the WHO Disability Assessment Schedule 2.0 (WHODAS 2.0). Data on this outcome will be collected in person if the patient is still in hospital, or by phone if the patient has been discharged. This data will also be collected from a stratified random sample of participants.
- Return to work at 30 days and three months after arrival at the emergency department. Data on this outcome will be collected in person if the patient is still in hospital, or by phone if the patient has been discharged.
- Length of emergency department stay. Data on this outcome will be collected from patient hospital records.
- Length of hospital stay. Data on this outcome will be collected from patient hospital records.
- Intensive care unit admission. Data on this outcome will be collected from patient hospital records.
- Length of intensive care unit stay. Data on this outcome will be collected from patient hospital records.

## **7.15 Handling of adverse and safety events**

### **7.15.1 Definitions**

#### **7.15.1.1 Adverse event**

Any untoward medical occurrence in a clinical trial subject and, which does not necessarily have a causal relationship with the treatment, can be an unfavorable and unintended sign (including an abnormal laboratory discovery), symptom or disease temporally associated with the inclusion in the trial, whether or not related to the trial.

#### **7.15.1.2 Serious adverse event**

Any untoward medical occurrence in a trial participant that:

- leads to death
- is life-threatening
- requires inpatient hospitalization or prolongation of existing hospitalization
- results in persistent or significant disability or incapacity
- results in a congenital anomaly/malformation

#### **7.15.1.3 Safety event**

Any unexpected serious complication that might occur as a consequence of the trial and that are not part of the natural history of trauma.

### 7.15.2 Reporting and assessment of adverse and safety events

In alignment with other current trials including critically ill patients<sup>32</sup>, we will not collect adverse events or serious adverse events, because many of these events are expected in this patient population and we already collect many of these events, for example mortality, as part of our outcomes.

We will only report safety events, if they are life-threatening, prolong hospitalisation or result in meaningful harm to the participant. We cannot pre-define a comprehensive list of events that can be considered safety events, but will actively assess the presence of the following safety events:

- Prolonged mechanical ventilation (> 7 days)
- Initiation of renal replacement therapy
- Prolonged (> 2 days) or renewed (restart after at least 2 days without) use of vasopressors such as norepinephrine or vasopressin

These events are considered safety events because they suggest pulmonary, renal, septic or bleeding complications and an increase in their occurrence following ATLS® training could indicate that the intervention is harmful. These events therefore need to be tracked during the standard care phase as well as the intervention phase, but will only be considered indicative of harm related to the intervention if they occur more often during the intervention phase than during the standard care phase.

We will also report any other safety events that we identify during the trial, and the reporting of such will have to be based on the intuition of the clinical research coordinators and local investigators. Examples of such safety events could include missed injuries or missed investigations, which could be suspected if certain injuries or investigations were identified or conducted more often during the standard care phase than during the intervention phase.

All safety events will be recorded in the Case Record Form (CRF) and reported to the trial management team within 24 hours of its occurrence. The trial management team will then assess if the event can be considered related to the trial or the intervention within 24 hours of it being reported. Events that are considered probably related will be reported immediately to the Joint Trial Steering and Data Monitoring Committee.

### 7.15.3 Follow up of safety events

All safety events should be followed up by the local investigator until they are fully evaluated.

## 7.16 Statistics

### 7.16.1 General principles

We will conduct all analysis by modified intention to treat. Clusters and observations within clusters will be considered exposed to the intervention after the date at which the cluster was scheduled to transition. All data will be included with the exception of the transition phases. We will not adjust for multiplicity of analyses because none of the secondary outcomes will be singularly more important. However, all secondary outcomes will be interpreted with due consideration for how all are affected by the intervention without putting any undue emphasis on a single outcome that might be statistically significant but where all others appear to have remained unchanged.

We will use a two-sided significance level of 5% and estimate 95% confidence intervals. The primary subgroup analyses will be based on geographical region because demonstrating the consistency of any effect across multiple regions will enhance the generalisability of the results<sup>4</sup>. Additional subgroup analyses will include age across the groups older adolescents (15-19 years), young adults (20-24 years), adults (25-59 years), and older adults (60 years and older)<sup>33</sup>; sex; and the clinical cohorts blunt multisystem trauma, penetrating trauma, and severe isolated traumatic brain injury.

### 7.16.2 Analysis models

There are a number of requirements for the analysis model. Firstly, all analysis will consider the clustered nature of the design. Secondly, as the trial has only 30 clusters, it will be essential that the model allows for a correction due to the small number of clusters. Thirdly, as the design is a stepped-wedge study, we will adjust for temporal confounding using categorical effects for period of the study (month). Full details on how each of these will be undertaken, with justification is provided below<sup>34</sup>.

For binary outcomes, a mixed effects binomial regression with a logit link will be used to estimate the odds ratio; and a binomial model with identity link used to estimate the risk difference. These models will be fitted using residual pseudo-likelihood estimation based on linearization with subject-specific expansion (RSPL). If the binomial model with the identity link does not converge then only a odds ratio will be reported.

We will include fixed effects for period and a fixed effect for intervention exposure. The primary analysis will allow for clustering by as a random cluster and random cluster by period effect. To correct the potential inflation of the type I error rate due to small number of clusters, the Kenward and Roger small sample correction will be used. In a sensitivity analysis we will explore if models with more complicated correlation structures are a better fit to the data. These models are not being used as our primary analysis

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<sup>4</sup>**Note:** Batches will not be based on regions because it will be logistically more feasible to include clusters from different regions in each batch.

models as there is limited understanding as to when such models will converge and how to choose between the various different correlation structures which might be plausible.

To this end we will additionally fit generalised linear mixed models (with same link functions and fixed effects as described above) to include a discrete time decay correlation structure including a random cluster effect with auto-regressive structure (AR(1)). To allow for the randomisation by batches, a different secular trend will be included for each batch (interaction between batch and period). For continuous, count and prevalence outcomes similar model-based approaches will be used but with appropriate links and distribution functions, using transformations where appropriate.

### 7.16.3 Additional sensitivity analyses

To additionally explore if the fixed period effect is both parsimonious and adequate to represent the extent of any underlying secular trend, we will model the time effect using a spline function. Models will also be extended to include random cluster by intervention effects (with a non-zero covariance term) to examine if results are sensitive to the assumption of no intervention by cluster interaction. Models will also be extended to include an interaction between treatment and number of periods since first treated, to examine if there is any indication of a relationship between duration of exposure to the intervention and outcomes.

This will allow us to different lag effects (whereby it takes time for the intervention to become embedded within the culture before its impact can properly start to be realised); as well as waning effects (whereby the effect of the intervention starts to decrease – or fade). This type of analysis attempts to disentangle how some clusters end up having a long exposure to the intervention and others have a much shorter exposure time. A fully adjusted covariate analysis will additionally adjust for a set of pre-specified individual-level covariates of known prognostic importance.

### 7.16.4 Estimation and reporting of within cluster correlations

We will report time adjusted within-cluster correlations for all outcomes with 95% confidence intervals. We will report correlations from the different assumed correlation structures (so we will report intra-cluster correlations (ICC); within and between-period correlations; and within-period correlations and exponential decay). As well as reporting correlations we will additionally report all variance components. For all outcomes we will report correlations on the latent scale (i.e. proportions scale for binary outcomes) as is appropriate to inform future sample size calculations.

### 7.16.5 Sample size calculations

With 30 clusters and a total sample size of 4320 our study has ~90% power across different combinations of cluster autocorrelations (CAC) and intra-cluster correlations (ICC) to detect a reduction in the primary outcome from 20% under standard care to 15% after ATLS® training (see Figure 3). This effect is a conservative estimate and the reduction equals a risk ratio of 0.75, which would be clinically important while also being consistent with our pilot study and updated systematic review. We allowed for the clustered design and assumed an ICC of 0.02, but considered sensitivity across the range 0.01-0.05<sup>35,36</sup>, and a CAC of 0.9 but considered sensitivity across the range 0.8-1.0, based on our pilot study and current guidance<sup>37-39</sup>. We included the CAC to allow for variation in clustering over time. We assume that each cluster will contribute approximately 12 observations per month to the analysis, based on our previous work.

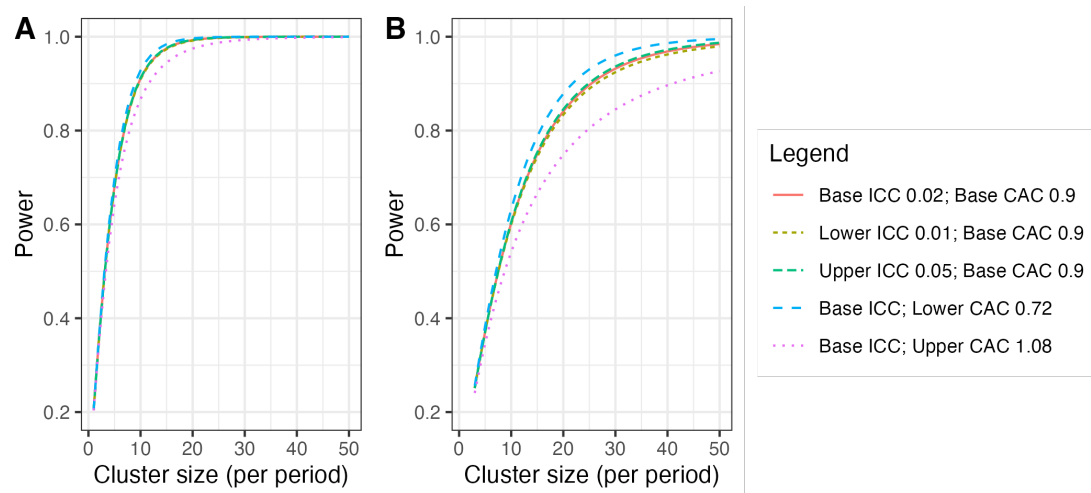


Figure 3: Power curves for different combinations of cluster autocorrelations (CAC) and intra-cluster correlations (ICC). **A)** Shows power curves assuming a reduction in the primary outcome from 20% under standard care to 15% after ATLS® training. **B)** Shows power curves assuming a reduction in the primary outcome from 10% under standard care to 7.5% after ATLS® training. Under this scenario, we would need to increase the sample size per month to around 30 observations to achieve 90% power under most combinations of CAC and ICC.

### 7.16.6 Interim analysis

There will be one interim analyses after half of the batches have completed the trial. The interim analyses will be assessed by the Joint Trial Steering and Data Monitoring Committee. The purposes of this interim analysis will be to:

- assess the trial's feasibility and recommend stopping the trial if the trial is not feasible, for example if hospitals fail to adhere to the randomisation schedule or if there are substantial missing data in outcomes;
- assess if sample size calculations should be revised, primarily by increasing the number of clusters to be included; and
- compare characteristics across intervention conditions to monitor for differential recruitment/ascertainment between intervention and control.

### 7.17 Quality control and quality assurance

The George Institute for Global Health - India will ensure proper conduct of the trial through quality control measures including on-site training of personnel, standard operating procedures, ongoing quality metrics assessment, review of missing data and outliers, and round-the-clock availability of coordinating center personnel and Principal Investigators. The trial will strictly follow ICH GCP principles, Indian regulations, and George Institute procedures. The trial operations staff from the George Institute India will train local investigators, and trial site staff, before the trial, with continuous documentation in the site master file. All documentation will be stored securely and retained according to regulatory requirements.

### 7.18 Quality assurance and oversight

The Trial Management Group and Trial Team, comprising key project leaders and managers, will play a pivotal role in ensuring the highest standards of quality assurance and effective sponsor oversight throughout the trial. These groups will be responsible for facilitating consistent communication, maintaining fidelity in study implementation, and overseeing the quality of data collection.

To achieve these objectives, the groups will implement a comprehensive communication plan and provide extensive training to site personnel. The training will cover not only the study protocol but also practical aspects of various systems, supplemented by both written and electronic materials designed to educate study and clinical emergency staff.

The trial's quality assurance systems will be meticulously designed based on a thorough risk analysis. A key component of our quality assurance strategy will include the development and implementation of detailed operational manuals and regular meetings. These tools and interactions will ensure that all trial personnel will be used to uphold the trial's quality standards.

Central to our oversight approach will be a comprehensive monitoring and auditing plan. This plan will be tailored based on the identified risks associated with the trial. Through these comprehensive measures, the trial management group, in conjunction

with the hospital staff, will ensure that the trial is conducted with the utmost rigor, adhering to the highest standards of quality assurance and effective sponsor oversight.

### **7.19 Monitoring**

We will implement a multi-tiered monitoring strategy, including centralized data consistency checks, statistical monitoring, and selective on-site evaluations. Key integrity measures include source data verification, data entry validation, and regular audits. Any protocol deviations will be thoroughly documented, with serious breaches promptly addressed to ensure data integrity. Monitors from coordinating centres will assist investigators in maintaining high ethical, scientific, technical, and regulatory quality. Monitoring visits will review protocol adherence, participant recruitment, adverse event reporting, compliance with study procedures, and regulatory adherence. Regular remote monitoring of the web-based database will be conducted to ensure data integrity, using validation and consistency rules and regular data cleaning. The Trial Team and Trial Management Group will monitor baseline characteristics, opt-in consent rates and differential opt-in consent rates across trial arms, follow-up rates, CRF return and completeness rates, and safety data.

## **8 Deviations, serious breaches and other reporting obligations**

The responsible investigator shall, without delay, report to the sponsor any serious breaches and deviations from the trial protocol, ICH-GCP and other regulations that significantly and directly affect, or with high likelihood could affect, the subjects' safety and integrity or the reliability and robustness of the data generated in the trial. The sponsor should assess the suspected serious breach and the consequences of deviations that have occurred. Minor deviations that do not affect subjects' integrity or safety, nor significantly affect the trial's scientific value, are documented in the trial documentation of the principal investigator and the sponsor and appropriate measures shall be taken. The deviations must be recorded in the clinical trial report.

## **9 Audits and inspections**

Authorized representatives for the sponsor and Competent Authorities (CA) may carry out audits or inspections at the trial site, including source data verification. The investigator must ensure that all source documents are available for audits and inspections. The purpose of an audit or inspection is to systematically and independently review all trial-related activities and documents, to determine whether these activities were performed, registered, analyzed and reported correctly according to protocol, ICH- GCP and applicable regulations.



## 10 Ethics

### 10.1 Compliance to the protocol, ICH-GCP and regulations

The trial will be performed in compliance with this clinical trial protocol, the Declaration of Helsinki, ICH-GCP (Good Clinical Practice), and current national regulations governing this clinical trial. This is to ensure the safety and integrity of the trial subjects as well as the quality of the data collected.

### 10.2 Ethical review of the trial

The final protocol will be submitted for ethical review at all participating hospitals, where possible, as well as the The George Institute for Global Health in India and Swedish Ethical Review Atuhortiy.

### 10.3 Procedure for obtaining consent

In this trial, consent refers to consent for data collection. It is not possible for patients to opt out from being subjected to the intervention, as the intervention is delivered at the cluster level and involves training physicians in ATLS®, and these physicians cannot be expected to temporarily forget their training. Patient participants will be included in this trial under the following modes of consent:

- Opt out consent for **routinely collected data**. Consent for collection of routinely recorded data by interview or extraction of information from medical records will be presumed unless actively declined. This approach is justified because the trial can be considered minimal risk and because data collection will be non-invasive. The patients or their legally authorized representative will be provided with written information about the study on their arrival at the hospital. The variables assumed to be routinely collected are listed in Section [13.2](#).
- Opt in consent and assent for **non-routinely recorded data**. Informed consent for non-routinely recorded data will be actively sought from patient participants or their legally authorized representative. For participants who are between 15 and 18 years of age we will obtain both the assent of the participant as well as the consent of their guardian or legally authorized representative. The clinical research coordinators will approach patient participants and their representatives after admission. The consent and assent will be written for patient participants who are admitted to the hospital and verbal for participants who are transferred or discharged before the clinical research coordinators have had an opportunity to approach them. The verbal consent will be audio recorded. The variables assumed not to be routinely collected are also listed in Section [13.2](#).

- Waiver of informed consent for patients who are unconscious or otherwise unable to provide consent and do not have a legally authorized representative. This group represents the most severely injured patients and they have to be included to make the trial representative of the entire population of trauma patients. Patients participants who regain consciousness will be informed about the study and asked for consent for collection of non-routinely collected data.

## 10.4 Data protection

All data will be handled according to the Indian Council of Medical Research's guidelines and standard operating procedures of the George Institute for Global Health India on data security and protection. Trial data will be shared via the trial electronic CRF (eCRF) throughout the trial. The eCRF will be accessible via VPN with a two-factor authentication and the data will be held on a secure server. All investigators and trial site staff involved in this trial must comply with the requirements of the ICMR Guidelines on data security and protection. The participant information sheet provided to participants, will inform them how:

- the trial data will be collected, used and disclosed;
- how trial data are stored to maintain confidentiality in accordance with national data legislation; and
- for verification of the data, representatives delegated by the sponsor, as well as relevant authorities, may require access to parts of medical records or trial records that are relevant to the trial, including the patient participant's medical history.

## 11 Insurances

The George Institute for Global Health, India is responsible for ensuring that any insurance cover required to cover the set-up, management and conduct of the study in India has been obtained. The George Institute for Global Health, India is also responsible for ensuring that India Sites have been obtained and/or will obtain insurance prior to the opening of the study in India and shall be maintained for the duration of the study and for an appropriate period thereafter. This includes being responsible for ensuring that there is appropriate insurance for the duration of the study to cover against claims for compensation by participants arising out of their participation in the trial in India. Compensation in case of injury or death will be provided by the George Institute for Global Health, India according to the regulations outlined in rules 39, 40 and 42 of the New Drugs and Clinical Rules (2019). x

## 12 Substantial changes to the trial

Substantial changes to the signed clinical trial protocol are only possible through approved protocol amendments and by agreement between the sponsor and the principal investigator.

## 13 Collection, handling, and archiving of data

Clinical research coordinators will collect data using a paper based CRF (see Appendix Section 19.3), which is then transferred to an eCRF. All trial data in the CRF must be extracted from and be consistent with the relevant source documents. The eCRF will be accessible to trial coordinators, data managers, the Investigators, Clinical Trial Monitors, Auditors, and Inspectors as required. All data will be registered, managed, and stored in a manner that enables correct reporting, interpretation, and verification. The complete Trial Master File, as well as source documents, will be archived for at least 10 years after the trial is completed. Source data in the medical records system are stored and archived in accordance with national regulations. Metadata will be publicly accessible via a persistent DOI, and anonymised data will be released upon project completion. A detailed data management plan is available here <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7748764>.

### 13.1 Source data

The source data for each variable is given in Section 13.2. Whenever medical records are the source data, this includes imaging and lab reports. Whenever an interview is given as the source, the CRF will constitute the source data, as this is where the responses to questions will be recorded. The local investigator must keep source documents for each patient participant in the trial. A document describing what has been classified as source data in the trial (source data reference document) will be included in the Investigator Site File (ISF). The investigator must ensure that all source documents are accessible for monitoring and other quality control activities. Source data is further defined before trial start at each individual site and can, in cases where source data is not registered in another document, consist of the CRF. This should be decided in consultation with the monitor and clearly stated in the source data reference document. Access to trial-related documentation, such as patient participants' medical records, CRFs, other source data and other trial documentation will be provided for monitoring and auditing purposes. Access will also be granted in the context of regulatory inspections.

## 13.2 Variables

### 13.2.1 Screening

- Record ID
- Hospital ID
- Date and time of screening
- Is the patient at least 15 years old?
  1. Yes
  2. No
- Did the patient present with a history of trauma defined as having any of the reasons listed in the International Classification of Diseases chapter XX as the reason for presenting? Please see <https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/XX> for a complete list of ICD-10 codes
  1. Yes
  2. No
- Did the trauma occur less than 48 hours before arrival to the hospital?
  1. Yes
  2. No
- Was the patient admitted?
  1. Yes
  2. No
- Did the patient die after arrival but before admission?
  1. Yes
  2. No
- Was the patient transferred to another hospital for admission?
  1. Yes
  2. No
- Did the patient present with isolated limb injury?
  1. Yes
  2. No

- **Was the patient directly admitted to a ward without being seen by a physician in the emergency department?**
  1. Yes
  2. No
- **Phone numbers to patient and patient representative**

### 13.2.2 Consent

- **Is the patient included under the waiver of informed consent?**
  1. Yes
  2. No
- **Did the participant or participant representative opt out from being included in the study?**
  1. Yes
  2. No
- **Date when participant decided to opt out from the study**
- **Please upload a scanned copy of the signed opt-out form**
- **Who was approached for consent to out of hospital follow-up?**
  1. Patient participant
  2. Legally authorised representative
  3. The patient is included under the waiver of informed consent
- **Why was a representative of the participant approached for consent instead of the participant?**
  1. The participant is incapacitated because of the trauma
  2. The participant is younger than 18 years
- **Did the participant or participant representative consent to out of hospital follow-up?**
  1. Yes
  2. No
- **Did the participant assent to out of hospital follow-up?**
  1. Yes
  2. No

3. The participant is incapacitated because of the trauma
- **When did the participant or participant representative consent to out of hospital follow-up?**
  - **How did the participant or participant representative consent to out of hospital follow-up?**
    1. In writing
    2. Verbally
  - **Please upload a scanned copy of the signed consent form**
  - **Please upload an audio recording of the verbal consent**

### 13.2.3 Baseline

- **Age in years**
- **Sex**
  1. Female
  2. Male
  3. Other
  4. Not known
- **Current marital status**
  1. Never married
  2. Currently married
  3. Separated
  4. Divorced
  5. Widowed
  6. Cohabiting
  7. Not known
- **Education level**
  1. Not attended school
  2. Primary school
  3. Secondary school
  4. Higher secondary school
  5. Graduate
  6. Post graduate and above
  7. Other
  8. Not known

- **Main work status**

1. Paid work, such as daily wage earner, teacher, factory worker and government employee
2. Self-employed, such as own your business or farming
3. Non-paid work, such as volunteer or charity
4. Student
5. Keeping house/homemaker
6. Retired
7. Unemployed (health reasons)
8. Unemployed (other reasons)
9. Other
10. Not known

- **Income level in INR per month**

1. Below 10,000
2. 10,001-20,000
3. 20,001-30,000
4. 30,001-50,000
5. 50,001-80,000
6. 80,001-1,00,000
7. Above 1,00,000
8. Not known

- **Mechanism of injury**

- **Clinical Frailty Scale**

1. 1. Very fit
2. 2. Fit
3. 3. Managing well
4. 4. Living with very mild frailty
5. 5. Living with mild frailty
6. 6. Living with moderate frailty
7. 7. Living with severe frailty
8. 8. Living with very severe frailty
9. 9. Terminally ill
10. Not known

- **Comorbidities (Charlson Comorbidity Index)**

1. Myocardial infarction
2. Congestive heart failure
3. Peripheral vascular disease
4. Cerebrovascular disease
5. Dementia
6. Chronic pulmonary disease
7. Rheumatologic disease
8. Peptic ulcer disease
9. Liver disease
10. Diabetes
11. Hemiplegia or paraplegia
12. Renal disease
13. Malignancy
14. Leukemia
15. Lymphoma
16. AIDS
17. Not known

- **Severity of liver disease**

1. Mild
2. Moderate or severe
3. Not known

- **Severity of diabetes**

1. Controlled
2. Uncontrolled
3. Not known

- **Severity of malignancy**

1. Localized
2. Metastatic tumor
3. Not known

#### **13.2.4 Prehospital**

- **Date and time of injury**
- **Mode of transport to the participating hospital**
  1. Ambulance
  2. Police
  3. Private vehicle



4. Walking
5. Not known
6. Others

- **Referred or transferred to the participating hospital from another hospital**

1. Yes
2. No
3. Not known

### **13.2.5 Emergency department**

- **Date and time of arrival to the emergency department at the participating hospital**
- **First recorded systolic blood pressure (mmHg)**
- **First recorded diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)**
- **First recorded heart rate (beats per minute)**
- **First recorded respiratory rate (breaths per minute)**
- **First recorded Glasgow Coma Scale**
- **First recorded body temperature (°C)**
- **First recorded oxygen saturation (%)**
- **Emergency department disposition**
  1. Admitted
  2. Referred or transferred for admission
  3. Dead
  4. Not known
  5. Others
- **Date and time of referral or transfer for admission**

**13.2.6 Hospital**

- **Date and time of admission to the participating hospital**
- **Type of admitting ward**
  1. General surgery
  2. Orthopaedics
  3. Neurosurgery
  4. Intensive care unit
  5. High dependency unit
  6. Medicine
  7. Not known
- **Ward name or number**
- **Admitted to intensive care unit during admission**
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Not known
- **Date and time of first intensive care unit admission**
- **Date and time of first intensive care unit discharge**
- **Hospital disposition**
  1. Alive
  2. Dead
  3. Transferred for admission
  4. Not known
- **Was the patient transferred to another hospital for admission?**
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. Not known
- **Date and time of discharge or transfer from participating hospital**

**13.2.7 Surgery**

- **Date and time of surgical procedure**
- **Preoperative ASA score**
  1. 1. A normal healthy patient
  2. 2. A patient with mild systemic disease
  3. 3. A patient with severe systemic disease
  4. 4. A patient with severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life
  5. 5. A moribund patient who is not expected to survive without the operation
  6. 6. A declared brain-dead patient whose organs are being removed for donor purposes
  7. Not known
- **Description of procedure**
- **Procedure coded according to SNOMED CT**

**13.2.8 Imaging**

- **Date and time of imaging**
- **Type of imaging**
  1. Ultrasound
  2. X-ray
  3. Computed Tomography (CT)
  4. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)

**13.2.9 Transfusion**

- **Date and time of transfusion**
- **Type of blood product**
  1. Packed red blood cells
  2. Platelets
  3. Fresh frozen plasma
  4. Whole blood
- **Number of units transfused**

**13.2.10 Injury**

- **Injury description**
- **ICD 10 code**
- **Injury source data**
  1. Medical record
  2. X-ray report
  3. CT-report
  4. Surgical notes

**13.2.11 Mortality**

- **Is the patient dead?**
  1. Yes
  2. No
- **Date and time of death**

**13.2.12 Quality of life (EQ5D5L)**

- **First, I would like to ask you about MOBILITY. Would you say that:**
  1. You have no problems in walking about?
  2. You have slight problems in walking about?
  3. You have moderate problems in walking about?
  4. You have severe problems in walking about?
  5. You are unable to walk about?
- **Next, I would like to ask you about SELF-CARE. Would you say that:**
  1. You have no problems washing or dressing yourself?
  2. You have slight problems washing or dressing yourself?
  3. You have moderate problems washing or dressing yourself?
  4. You have severe problems washing or dressing yourself?
  5. You are unable to wash or dress yourself?
- **Next, I would like to ask you about USUAL ACTIVITIES, for example, work, study, housework, family or leisure activities. Would you say that:**
  1. You have no problems doing your usual activities?
  2. You have slight problems doing your usual activities?
  3. You have moderate problems doing your usual activities?
  4. You have severe problems doing your usual activities?

5. You are unable to do your usual activities?
- **Next, I would like to ask you about PAIN OR DISCOMFORT. Would you say that:**
    1. You have no pain or discomfort?
    2. You have slight pain or discomfort?
    3. You have moderate pain or discomfort?
    4. You have severe pain or discomfort?
    5. You have extreme pain or discomfort?
  - **Finally, I would like to ask you about ANXIETY OR DEPRESSION. Would you say that:**
    1. You are not anxious or depressed?
    2. You are slightly anxious or depressed?
    3. You are moderately anxious or depressed?
    4. You are severely anxious or depressed?
    5. You are extremely anxious or depressed?
  - **I would now like you to tell me the point on this line where you would put your health TODAY.(Note to interviewer: mark the line at the point indicating the respondent's health today.)**

### 13.2.13 Disability (WHODAS 2.0)

- **Who are you interviewing?**
  1. Patient participant
  2. Patient representative
- **What is the relationship between the representative and the participant?**
  1. Husband or wife
  2. Parent
  3. Son or daughter
  4. Brother or sister
  5. Other relative
  6. Friend
  7. Professional carer
  8. Other (specify)
- **Standing for long periods such as 30 minutes?**
  1. None

2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Standing for long periods such as 30 minutes?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Taking care of your household responsibilities?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do

- **Learning a new task, for example, learning how to get to a new place?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Learning a new task, for example, learning how to get to a new place?**

1. None
  2. Mild
  3. Moderate
  4. Severe
  5. Extreme or cannot do
  6. None
  7. Mild
  8. Moderate
  9. Severe
  10. Extreme or cannot do
- **How much of a problem did you have joining in community activities (for example, festivities, religious or other activities) in the same way as anyone else can?**
    1. None
    2. Mild
    3. Moderate
    4. Severe
    5. Extreme or cannot do
  - **How much have you been emotionally affected by your health problems?**
    1. None
    2. Mild
    3. Moderate
    4. Severe
    5. Extreme or cannot do
  - **Concentrating on doing something for ten minutes?**
    1. None
    2. Mild
    3. Moderate
    4. Severe
    5. Extreme or cannot do
    6. None
    7. Mild
    8. Moderate
    9. Severe
    10. Extreme or cannot do
  - **Concentrating on doing something for ten minutes?**
    1. None
    2. Mild

3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Walking a long distance such as a kilometre [or equivalent]?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Walking a long distance such as a kilometre [or equivalent]?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Washing your whole body?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do

- **Getting dressed?**

1. None



2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Getting dressed?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Dealing with people you do not know?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do

- **Maintaining a friendship?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Maintaining a friendship?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do
6. None
7. Mild
8. Moderate
9. Severe
10. Extreme or cannot do

- **Your day-to-day work/school?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do

- **Taking care of his or her household responsibilities?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do

- **How much of a problem did he or she have joining in community activities (for example, festivities, religious or other activities) in the same way as anyone else can?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do

- **How much has your relative been emotionally affected by his or her health condition?**

1. None
2. Mild
3. Moderate
4. Severe
5. Extreme or cannot do

- **Washing his or her whole body?**
  1. None
  2. Mild
  3. Moderate
  4. Severe
  5. Extreme or cannot do
- **Dealing with people he or she does not know?**
  1. None
  2. Mild
  3. Moderate
  4. Severe
  5. Extreme or cannot do
- **His or her day-to-day work/school?**
  1. None
  2. Mild
  3. Moderate
  4. Severe
  5. Extreme or cannot do
- **Overall, in the past 30 days, how many days were these difficulties present?**
- **In the past 30 days, for how many days were you totally unable to carry out your usual activities or work because of any health condition?**
- **In the past 30 days, not counting the days that you were totally unable, for how many days did you cut back or reduce your usual activities or work because of any health condition?**

#### 13.2.14 Return to work

- **Date and time of return to work**
- **Work status**
  1. Paid work
  2. Self-employed, such as own your business or farming
  3. Non-paid work, such as volunteer or charity
  4. Student
  5. Keeping house/homemaker
  6. Not known

### 13.2.15 Safety events

- **Type of safety event**
  1. Prolonged mechanical ventilation (> 7 days)
  2. Initiation of renal replacement therapy
  3. Prolonged (> 2 days) or renewed (restart after at least 2 days without) use of vasopressors such as norepinephrine or vasopressin
  4. Other
- **Elaborate on other safety event**
- **Investigator assessment of safety event**

### 13.2.16 End of study

- **What is the reason for the end of study?**
  1. Completed follow up
  2. Lost to follow up
  3. Death
  4. Discharge and no consent for follow up
  5. Withdrawn consent for in-hospital data collection and no consent for follow up
  6. Withdrawn consent for in-hospital data collection and follow-up
  7. Withdrawn consent for follow-up
- **Date and time of end of study**

## 14 Trial organisation

Trial management and oversight is governed by three trial committees and groups: the Trial Team (TT), the Trial Management Group (TMG), the Joint Trial Steering and Data Monitoring Committee (TSDMC). These groups are briefly described below and their relationships are shown in Figure 4. Details about each committee and group are available in their respective charter.

### 14.1 Trial team

#### Responsibility

To run the trial on a day-to-day basis, maintain trial databases, randomise clusters, ensuring complete and correct data, preparing reports for meetings (including those of

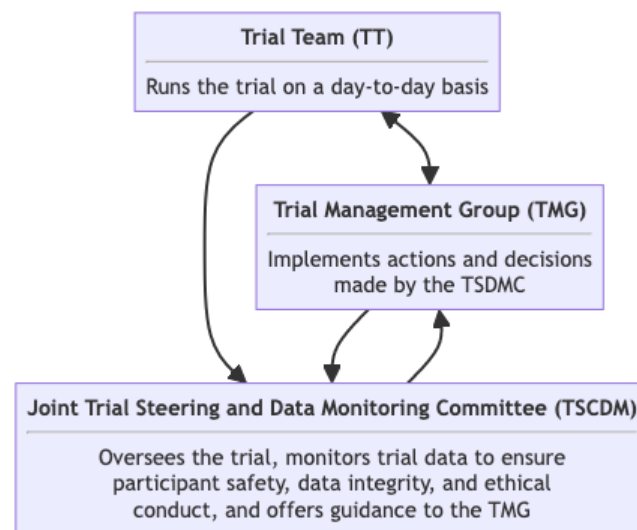


Figure 4: Trial organisation overview.

the TMG, TSC and DMC) and dealing with research governance and, if appropriate, regulatory matters.

### Composition

Includes the project manager, clinical research associates, principal investigator and co-investigators as needed.

### Relationships

Reports to the TMG and TSDMC. Operationalises decisions made by the TMG.

### Meeting frequencies

As often as needed, often weekly or bi-weekly.

## 14.2 Trial Management Group (TMG)

### Responsibility

To manage the trial, including its clinical and practical aspects.

### Composition

Includes members with broad expertise appropriate to the trial. The TMG will be chaired by the Principal Investigator.

### Relationships

Receives reports from TT. Provides input to the TSDMC. Implements decisions made by the TSDMC.

**Meeting frequencies**

Monthly to every six months.

**14.3 Joint Trial Steering and Data Monitoring Committee (TSDMC)****Responsibility**

The TSDMC's responsibility is to oversee the trial, review results of interim analyses and safety events reported by the TMG, and review trial data for each batch, assessing data quality, completeness, cluster performance in recruitment and loss to follow-up rates, and external factors affecting trial validity, safety, or ethics. This committee also offer guidance to the TMG.

**Composition**

A majority of independent members, including a chair and three additional external experts specializing in the clinical area, biostatistics, medical ethics, and a community or patient representative, as well as and a minority of members with a direct interest in the trial, including the principal investigator. The chair should be independent of the trial, and the coordinating institutions Karolinska Institutet and The George Institute for Global Health.

**Relationships**

Receives reports from the trial team and TMG.

**Meeting frequencies**

Yearly, or after the completion of each batch, whichever comes first, but may be more frequent if needed.

**15 Funding**

- Swedish Research Council (reg. no. 2023-03128)
- Laerdal Foundation (reg. no. 2023-0297)

## 16 Special considerations

### 16.1 Funding

This trial is not yet fully funded. The Trial Management Group has decided to proceed with the trial with the expectation that additional funding will be secured. The Trial Steering Committee will be informed of the funding status at each meeting. If funding is not secured, the trial will be stopped. This will likely result in an underpowered trial. The justification for this decision is that the intervention is considered standard of care in many countries and the data collection is considered minimal risk. There is therefore a very small risk of harm to patient participants, but a potential direct benefit to those patient participants who receive the intervention. The benefit-risk ratio is therefore considered to be favourable, even in the case of an underpowered trial.

### 16.2 Potential amendments

There are ongoing discussions about re-framing the trial as a hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial and include a cost-effectiveness analysis. This would involve adding additional data collection to assess the implementation and costs of the intervention. This would involve additional funding and amended ethical approvals.

## 17 Notification of trial completion, reporting, and publication

The trial will be reported to the Funders within a year of completion. The results of the trial will also be prepared as manuscripts for publication. Authorship on trial manuscripts will be based on the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) criteria<sup>40</sup>:

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or reviewing it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

In addition to being accountable for the parts of the work done, an author should be able to identify which co-authors are responsible for specific other parts of the work. In addition, authors should have confidence in the integrity of the contributions of their co-authors.

The most recent version of the ICMJE criteria will be adhered to. We will also use the ICMJE criteria for non-author contributorship.

Before work on a trial manuscript is initiated, a writing group will be formed and first and last authors will be designated. This writing group will be formed by discussion in the Trial Management Group.

## 18 References

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## 19 Appendices

### 19.1 Initial hospital screening instrument

#### Screening call

Page 1

This form is for screening potentially eligible clusters for the ATLS vs standard care trial. Please fill it in while talking to the hospital representative. Thank you so much for helping with this task!

Please complete the questions below.

---

**Synopsis** Title Effects of Advanced Trauma Life Support® Training Compared to Standard Care on Adult Trauma Patient Outcomes: A Cluster Randomised Trial

**Rationale** Trauma is a massive global health issue. Many training programmes have been developed to help physicians in the initial management of trauma patients. Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) is the most popular of these programmes and have been used to train over one million physicians worldwide. Despite its widespread use, there are no controlled trials showing that ATLS® improves patient outcomes. Multiple systematic reviews emphasise the need for such trials.

**Aim** To compare the effects of ATLS® training with standard care on outcomes in adult trauma patients.

**Primary Outcome** In-hospital mortality within 30 days of arrival at the emergency department.

**Trial Design** Batched stepped-wedge cluster randomised trial in India.

**Trial Population** Adult trauma patients presenting to the emergency department of a participating hospital.

**Sample Size** 30 clusters and 4320 patients.

**Eligibility Criteria**

Cluster will be hospitals with a baseline admission rate of at least 400 patients with trauma per year or 35 patients with trauma per month for at least the last six months, that provide emergency surgical and orthopaedic services around the clock, and where no more than 25% of initial trauma care providers trained in a formalised trauma life support training programme.

Patients will be at least 15 years old, who present to the emergency department of participating hospitals with a history of trauma occurring less than 48 hours before arrival, and who are admitted or die between admission, or who are transferred from the emergency department of a participating hospital to another hospital for admission.

**Intervention** The intervention will be ATLS® training, a proprietary 2.5 day course teaching a standardised approach to trauma patient care using the concepts of a primary and secondary survey. Physicians will be trained in an accredited ATLS® training facility in India.

**Ethical Considerations** In-hospital data collection will be conducted under a waiver of informed consent. Patients will be informed about the trial and their right to opt out of data collection. Patients will be informed that they can withdraw their data from the trial at any time.

**Trial Period** 2024-10-01 to 2029-10-01

---

#### Hospital details

Hospital name and address

---

**Eligibility assessment**

Does the hospital admit trauma patients?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Is the hospital representative interested in potentially participating?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
(Comment: \_\_\_\_\_)

If the hospital representative is not interested in participating then you can go ahead and submit the form.

How many trauma patients aged 15 years or older, excluding patients with isolated limb injuries, are admitted each month?

- ☐ < 30  
☐ 30-60  
☐ > 60  
☐ Not sure  
(Comment: \_\_\_\_\_)

Does the hospital provide emergency surgery and orthopaedic services around the clock?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
(Comment: \_\_\_\_\_)

Out of the physicians involved in the initial resuscitation of trauma patients, are less than 25% trained in a formalised trauma life support training programme like ATLS or Primary Trauma Care?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
(Comment (like name of other training programme): \_\_\_\_\_)

Unfortunately, the hospital does not fulfil the eligibility criteria and you may go ahead and submit the form.

The hospital fulfills the cluster eligibility criteria. Please enter the hospital representative's contact details:

Name E-mail Phone number

---

Before you can proceed to fill in descriptive information about the potential cluster, please confirm that the contact details are complete:

---

**Cluster descriptive information**

Out of the patients with trauma who present to the emergency department, what percentage are referrals or transfers from other hospitals?

- ☐ < 20%  
☐ 20-50%  
☐ 51-80%  
☐ > 80%  
☐ Not sure  
(Comment: \_\_\_\_\_)

Out of the patients with trauma who are admitted, what percentage are transferred to other hospitals?

- ☐ < 10%  
☐ 10-20%  
☐ 21-30%  
☐ > 30%  
☐ Not sure  
(Comment: \_\_\_\_\_)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Who performs the initial resuscitation of trauma patients as they arrive to the hospital?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Casualty medical officers<br><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency medicine residents<br><input type="checkbox"/> Surgical residents<br><input type="checkbox"/> Not sure<br>(Comment: _____)  |
| How many CMOs work in the emergency department?<br><br>This question is here to help us estimate the number of people we will need to train.                               | <input type="radio"/> < 10<br><input type="radio"/> 10-20<br><input type="radio"/> 21-30<br><input type="radio"/> > 30<br><input type="radio"/> Not sure<br>(Comment: _____)   |
| How many emergency medicine/general surgery residents are admitted each year?<br><br>This question is here to help us estimate the number of people we will need to train. | <input type="radio"/> < 10<br><input type="radio"/> 10-20<br><input type="radio"/> 21-30<br><input type="radio"/> > 30<br><input type="radio"/> Not sure<br>(Comment: _____)   |
| What specialities are available around the clock to care for trauma patients?  | <input type="checkbox"/> General surgery<br><input type="checkbox"/> Orthopaedics<br><input type="checkbox"/> Neurosurgery<br><input type="checkbox"/> Vascular surgery<br><input type="checkbox"/> Interventional radiology<br><input type="checkbox"/> Emergency medicine<br><input type="checkbox"/> Not sure<br>(Comment: _____) |
| What facilities are available around the clock?  | <input type="checkbox"/> X-ray<br><input type="checkbox"/> Ultrasound/FAST<br><input type="checkbox"/> CT<br><input type="checkbox"/> MRI<br><input type="checkbox"/> Blood bank<br><input type="checkbox"/> Not sure<br>(Comment: _____)  |
| How many beds does the hospital have?  | <input type="radio"/> < 250<br><input type="radio"/> 250-500<br><input type="radio"/> 501-750<br><input type="radio"/> 751-1000<br><input type="radio"/> >1000<br><input type="radio"/> Not sure<br>(Comment: _____)   |
| How many ICU beds does the hospital have?  | <input type="radio"/> No ICU beds<br><input type="radio"/> 1-10<br><input type="radio"/> 11-20<br><input type="radio"/> 21-30<br><input type="radio"/> > 30<br><input type="radio"/> Not sure<br>(Comment: _____)  |
| How many dedicated trauma beds does the hospital have?   | <input type="radio"/> No dedicated trauma beds<br><input type="radio"/> 1-10<br><input type="radio"/> 11-20<br><input type="radio"/> 21-30<br><input type="radio"/> > 30<br><input type="radio"/> Not sure<br>(Comment: _____)   |

---

Please submit the form once you have completed all questions above.





## 19.2 In-depth hospital screening interview instrument

### Hospital screening interview for the ATLS vs standard care trial

Page 1

This is the screening interview form for the Advanced Trauma Life Support® vs Standard Care trial planned by Karolinska Institutet along with The George Institute. You have expressed preliminary interest in participating in this trial. We are undertaking this hospital screening interview in order to assess whether the study could be conducted at your hospital. We appreciate your efforts to answer as many of these questions as possible and we will follow up on your responses and any questions you may have in a separate call. Thank you!

**Synopsis Effects of Advanced Trauma Life Support® Training Compared to Standard Care on Adult Trauma Patient Outcomes: A Cluster Randomised Trial Rationale** Trauma is a massive global health issue. Many training programmes have been developed to help physicians in the initial management of trauma patients. Among these programmes, Advanced Trauma Life Support® (ATLS®) is the most popular, having trained over one million physicians worldwide. Despite its widespread use, there are no controlled trials showing that ATLS® improves patient outcomes. Multiple systematic reviews emphasise the need for such trials.

**Aim** To compare the effects of ATLS® training with standard care on outcomes in adult trauma patients.

**Primary Outcome** All-cause mortality within 30 days of arrival at the emergency department.

**Trial Design** Batched stepped-wedge cluster randomised trial in India.

**Trial Population** Adult trauma patients presenting to the emergency department of a participating hospital.

**Sample Size** 30 clusters and 4320 patients.

#### Eligibility Criteria

**Hospitals** are secondary or tertiary hospitals in India that admit or refer/transfer for admission at least 400 patients with trauma per year.

**Clusters** are one or more units of physicians providing initial trauma care in the emergency department of tertiary hospitals in India.

**Patients participants** are adult trauma patients who presents to the emergency department of participating hospitals and are admitted or transferred for admission.

**Intervention** The intervention will be ATLS® training, a proprietary 2.5 day course teaching a standardised approach to trauma patient care using the concepts of a primary and secondary survey. Physicians will be trained in an accredited ATLS® training facility in India.

**Ethical Considerations** We will use an opt-out consent approach, in which consent is presumed unless actively declined. Note that consent here refers to consent to data collection, as it will not be possible for patients to opt out from being subjected to the intervention. This approach is justified because the trial can be considered to involve only minimal risk and the data

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collection is non-invasive and mostly involve extracting routinely collected data from medical records. Patient participants will be informed about the study and their right to opt out once they are admitted or telephonically if they are transferred. Patients will be informed that they can withdraw their data from the trial at any time before final analysis of the data.

**Trial Period October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2029**

#### **Hospital details**

**[hospital\_address]**

#### **Contact person details**

**Name [contact\_name]**

**E-mail [contact\_email]**

**Phone number [contact\_phone\_number]**

Will you [contact\_name] also be the site investigator?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

#### **Investigator details**

Please enter the name and contact details of the site investigator

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Please enter these additional investigator details

Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Specialization \_\_\_\_\_

State Medical Council registration number \_\_\_\_\_

Is the investigator trained in International Council for Harmonisation, Guideline for Good Clinical Practice (ICH GCP)?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

Will there be a co-investigator at your site?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

Will you [contact\_name] be the co-investigator?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

Please enter the name and contact details of the site investigator

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

---

Please enter these additional co-investigator details

Designation \_\_\_\_\_  
Specialization \_\_\_\_\_  
State Medical Council registration number \_\_\_\_\_

---

Is the co-investigator trained in International  
Council for Harmonisation, Guideline for Good Clinical  
Practice (ICH GCP)?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

---

**Ethical review details**

Does your hospital have an ethics committee registered  
with CDSCO?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

---

Please enter the ethics committee registration number

\_\_\_\_\_

---

In the next three months when is your IEC meeting up?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

What is the expected timeline for ethics review at  
your site?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

In which languages do you think the consent form  
should be translated, considering the languages spoken  
by the potential participants treated at your  
hospital?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

**Departmental logistics**

Does your hospital require any additional departmental  
review besides the ethics? Can you please elaborate on  
that review?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

Are there any potential logistical issues which may  
interfere with set up or running of this project at  
your site?

\_\_\_\_\_  
(E.g. contract review, adequate space, lack of  
resources etc.)

---

What is the expected timeline for contract review,  
negotiations and execution (in days)?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

What is the maximum expected timeline?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Initial trauma care**

How do patients typically arrive to your hospital?

---

Who are involved in the management of trauma patients in the emergency department?

---

What happens when additional expertise is needed?

---

What is the role of the casualty medical officers?

---

Are physicians organised in units?

---

How big are those units?

---

How are those units composed in terms of residents and faculty?

---

How often do the units rotate?

---

How many units are there working in the emergency department?

---

How many trauma patients aged 15 years or older are admitted per day, excluding patients with isolated limb injuries and those who are admitted directly to the ward?

---

**Intervention and patient inclusion**

How many patients do you think you could include in to the proposed trial per month? (We need to include at least 12 patients per month)

---

What is the basis of your patient enrollment estimate?

(For example database review, emergency department record, review of patient records, other)

Do you see any problems with including 12 patients per month at your site? Can you please elaborate on those problems?

---

All hospitals in this trial will receive the intervention. The intervention is that we will train approximately 10 physicians providing initial trauma care in ATLS in your hospital. Who do you think we should train to maximise the effect?

(Surgical residents? Emergency medicine residents? Casualty medical officers? Someone else??)

The time point when the training will be implemented will be randomised, but there will be a minimum of three months between the start of the data collection and the training. The training will happen during a one month long "transition period". How long notice do you need to plan the participation of the physicians from your hospital?

Are you aware of any plans to train providers in any formalised trauma life support training programme during the next few years?

Are you aware of any plans to implement other interventions or changes that may radically change how you treat trauma patients at your site?

(For example building a trauma centre, building a new emergency department, shifting the CT)

If we would like to visit your hospital to observe trauma care delivery in the emergency department and talk to providers, how can that be arranged?

#### General

How are the patient medical records organised at your site?

- ☐ Hard-copy  
☐ Electronic  
☐ Not sure

Do you currently have any competing studies or are you committed to new competing studies?

Do you have access to a computer with high-speed internet access?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Do you currently have the necessary study team including research coordinator and co-investigators to conduct this study? Can you please elaborate on the composition and experience of that team?

What are your expectations of this trial?

Do you have any questions or comments regarding this trial?

Are you interested in participating in this trial?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

---

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Martin Gerdin Wörnberg ([martin.gerdin@ki.se](mailto:martin.gerdin@ki.se)), Monty Khajanchi ([monta32@gmail.com](mailto:monta32@gmail.com)) or Samriddhi Ranjan ([sranjan@georgeinstitute.org.in](mailto:sranjan@georgeinstitute.org.in))



## 19.3 Case Record Form

ATLS  
Page 1

### Screening

Record ID

Hospital ID

Date and time of screening

#### Inclusion criteria

Is the patient at least 15 years old?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

(Source: Medical record or interview)

Did the patient present with a history of trauma defined as having any of the reasons listed in the International Classification of Diseases chapter XX as the reason for presenting?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

(Source: Medical record or interview)

Please see <https://icd.who.int/browse10/2019/en#/XX> for a complete list of ICD-10 codes

Did the trauma occur less than 48 hours before arrival to the hospital?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

(Source: Medical record or interview)

Was the patient admitted?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

(Source: Medical record)

Did the patient die after arrival but before admission?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

(Source: Medical record)

Was the patient transferred to another hospital for admission?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

(Source: Medical record)

#### Exclusion criteria

Did the patient present with isolated limb injury?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

(Source: Medical record)

Was the patient directly admitted to a ward without being seen by a physician in the emergency department?

☐ Yes  
☐ No

(Source: Medical record)



**Eligibility**

Phone numbers to patient and patient representative

(Collect as many phone numbers as possible)

The patient is not eligible for inclusion.

## Consent

### Waiver of informed consent

**This only applies to patients who are unconscious or otherwise unable to provide consent and do not have a legally authorized representative. Patient participants who are included under the waiver of informed consent have to be approached and receive information about the study, the option to opt out, and consented for follow up when they regain consciousness or a legally authorized representative is present.**

Is the patient included under the waiver of informed consent? ☐ Yes  
☐ No

### Opt out from in-hospital data collection

Did the participant or participant representative opt out from being included in the study? ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Date when participant decided to opt out from the study \_\_\_\_\_

Please upload a scanned copy of the signed opt-out form

### Opt in consent for out of hospital follow up

Who was approached for consent to out of hospital follow-up? ☐ Patient participant  
☐ Legally authorised representative  
☐ The patient is included under the waiver of informed consent

Why was a representative of the participant approached for consent instead of the participant? ☐ The participant is incapacitated because of the trauma  
☐ The participant is younger than 18 years

Did the participant or participant representative consent to out of hospital follow-up? ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Did the participant assent to out of hospital follow-up? ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ The participant is incapacitated because of the trauma

When did the participant or participant representative consent to out of hospital follow-up? \_\_\_\_\_

How did the participant or participant representative consent to out of hospital follow-up? ☐ In writing  
☐ Verbally

Please upload a scanned copy of the signed consent form

---

Please upload an audio recording of the verbal consent

**Baseline**

---

Age in years

---

---

Sex

- ☐ Female
  - ☐ Male
  - ☐ Other
  - ☐ Not known
- 

---

Current marital status

- ☐ Never married
  - ☐ Currently married
  - ☐ Separated
  - ☐ Divorced
  - ☐ Widowed
  - ☐ Cohabiting
  - ☐ Not known
- (Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.  
Source: Interview)
- 

---

Education level

- ☐ Not attended school
  - ☐ Primary school
  - ☐ Secondary school
  - ☐ Higher secondary school
  - ☐ Graduate
  - ☐ Post graduate and above
  - ☐ Other
  - ☐ Not known
- (Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.  
Source: Interview)
- 

---

If other, please specify

---

---

Main work status

- ☐ Paid work, such as daily wage earner, teacher, factory worker and government employee
  - ☐ Self-employed, such as own your business or farming
  - ☐ Non-paid work, such as volunteer or charity
  - ☐ Student
  - ☐ Keeping house/homemaker
  - ☐ Retired
  - ☐ Unemployed (health reasons)
  - ☐ Unemployed (other reasons)
  - ☐ Other
  - ☐ Not known
- (Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.  
Source: Interview)
- 

---

If other, please specify

---

(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.  
Source: Interview)

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Income level in INR per month              | <input type="radio"/> Below 10,000<br><input type="radio"/> 10,001-20,000<br><input type="radio"/> 20,001-30,000<br><input type="radio"/> 30,001-50,000<br><input type="radio"/> 50,001-80,000<br><input type="radio"/> 80,001-1,00,000<br><input type="radio"/> Above 1,00,000<br><input type="radio"/> Not known<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview)  |
| Mechanism of injury                        | (Coded using ICD 10. Source: Medical record)   |
| Clinical Frailty Scale                     | <input type="radio"/> 1. Very fit<br><input type="radio"/> 2. Fit<br><input type="radio"/> 3. Managing well<br><input type="radio"/> 4. Living with very mild frailty<br><input type="radio"/> 5. Living with mild frailty<br><input type="radio"/> 6. Living with moderate frailty<br><input type="radio"/> 7. Living with severe frailty<br><input type="radio"/> 8. Living with very severe frailty<br><input type="radio"/> 9. Terminally ill<br><input type="radio"/> Not known<br>(Source: Medical record or treating physician)   |
| Comorbidities (Charlson Comorbidity Index) | <input type="checkbox"/> Myocardial infarction<br><input type="checkbox"/> Congestive heart failure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Peripheral vascular disease<br><input type="checkbox"/> Cerebrovascular disease<br><input type="checkbox"/> Dementia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Chronic pulmonary disease<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rheumatologic disease<br><input type="checkbox"/> Peptic ulcer disease<br><input type="checkbox"/> Liver disease<br><input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes<br><input type="checkbox"/> Hemiplegia or paraplegia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Renal disease<br><input type="checkbox"/> Malignancy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Leukemia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lymphoma<br><input type="checkbox"/> AIDS<br><input type="checkbox"/> Not known<br>(Source: Medical record, treating physician or interview) |
| Severity of liver disease                  | <input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate or severe<br><input type="radio"/> Not known<br>(Source: Medical record, treating physician or interview)   |
| Severity of diabetes                       | <input type="radio"/> Controlled<br><input type="radio"/> Uncontrolled<br><input type="radio"/> Not known<br>(Source: Medical record, treating physician or interview)   |

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Severity of malignancy | <div><input type="radio"/> Localized</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Metastatic tumor</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Not known</div> <div>(Source: Medical record, treating physician or interview)</div> |
|------------------------|--|

Pre-hospital

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Date and time of injury   |  |
| (Source: Medical record of interview)                                       |  |
| Mode of transport to the participating hospital                             | <div><div><input type="radio"/> Ambulance</div><div><input type="radio"/> Police</div><div><input type="radio"/> Private vehicle</div><div><input type="radio"/> Walking</div><div><input type="radio"/> Not known</div><div><input type="radio"/> Others</div></div> <div>(Source: Medical record of interview)</div> |
| If other, please specify  |  |
|   |  |
| Referred or transferred to the participating hospital from another hospital | <div><div><input type="radio"/> Yes</div><div><input type="radio"/> No</div><div><input type="radio"/> Not known</div></div> <div>(Source: Medical record of interview)</div>  |

## Emergency department

---

Date and time of arrival to the emergency department  
at the participating hospital

---

(Source: Medical record of interview)

---

First recorded systolic blood pressure (mmHg)

---

(Source: Medical record)

---

First recorded diastolic blood pressure (mmHg)

---

(Source: Medical record)

---

First recorded heart rate (beats per minute)

---

(Source: Medical record)

---

First recorded respiratory rate (breaths per minute)

---

(Source: Medical record)

---

First recorded Glasgow Coma Scale

---

(Source: Medical record)

---

First recorded body temperature (°C)

---

(Source: Medical record)

---

First recorded oxygen saturation (%)

---

(Source: Medical record)

---

Emergency department disposition

☐ Admitted  
☐ Referred or transferred for admission  
☐ Dead  
☐ Not known  
☐ Others  
(Source: Medical record)

---

If other, please specify

---

Date and time of referral or transfer for admission

---

(Source: Medical record)



## Hospital

Date and time of admission to the participating hospital

(Source: Medical record)

Type of admitting ward

- ☐ General surgery  
☐ Orthopaedics  
☐ Neurosurgery  
☐ Intensive care unit  
☐ High dependency unit  
☐ Medicine  
☐ Not known  
(Source: Medical record)

Ward name or number

(Source: Medical record)

Admitted to intensive care unit during admission

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Not known  
(Source: Medical record)

Date and time of first intensive care unit admission

(Source: Medical record)

Date and time of first intensive care unit discharge

(Source: Medical record)

Hospital disposition

- ☐ Alive  
☐ Dead  
☐ Transferred for admission  
☐ Not known  
(Source: Medical record)

Was the patient transferred to another hospital for admission?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Not known  
(Source: Medical record)

Date and time of discharge or transfer from participating hospital

(Source: Medical record)

Surgery

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Date and time of surgical procedure    | (A surgical procedure is defined as any procedure performed in the operating room, interventional dropdownlogy suite, or at the bedside, requiring general or regional anesthesia. Source: Medical record)  |
| Preoperative ASA score                 | <div><div><input type="radio"/> 1. A normal healthy patient</div><div><input type="radio"/> 2. A patient with mild systemic disease</div><div><input type="radio"/> 3. A patient with severe systemic disease</div><div><input type="radio"/> 4. A patient with severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life</div><div><input type="radio"/> 5. A moribund patient who is not expected to survive without the operation</div><div><input type="radio"/> 6. A declared brain-dead patient whose organs are being removed for donor purposes</div><div><input type="radio"/> Not known</div></div> <div>(Source: Medical record or treating physician)</div> |
| Description of procedure               | <div>(Source: Medical record)</div>   |
| Procedure coded according to SNOMED CT | <div>(Source: Medical record)</div>   |

Imaging

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Date and time of imaging |  |
|                          | (Source: Medical record)   |
| Type of imaging          | <div><input type="radio"/> Ultrasound</div> <div><input type="radio"/> X-ray</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Computed Tomography (CT)</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)</div> <div>(Source: Medical record)</div> |

Transfusion

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Date and time of transfusion | <div></div> <div>(Source: Medical record)</div>  |
| Type of blood product        | <div><div><input type="radio"/> Packed red blood cells</div><div><input type="radio"/> Platelets</div><div><input type="radio"/> Fresh frozen plasma</div><div><input type="radio"/> Whole blood</div></div> <div>(Source: Medical record)</div> |
| Number of units transfused   | <div></div> <div>(Source: Medical record)</div>  |

Injury

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Injury description | <div></div> <div>(Source: Medical record)</div>  |
| ICD 10 code        | <div></div> <div>(Coded using ICD 10. Source: Medical record)</div>  |
| Injury source data | <div><div><input type="radio"/> Medical record</div><div><input type="radio"/> X-ray report</div><div><input type="radio"/> CT-report</div><div><input type="radio"/> Surgical notes</div></div> <div>(Source: Medical record)</div> |

Mortality

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Is the patient dead?                             | <input type="radio"/> Yes<br><input type="radio"/> No |
| Date and time of death                           |   |
| <div>(Source: Medical record or interview)</div> |   |

---

Health Questionnaire

English version

## VERSION FOR INTERVIEWER ADMINISTRATION

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Note to interviewer: although allowance should be made for the interviewer's particular style of speaking, the wording of the questionnaire instructions should be followed as closely as possible. In the case of the EQ-5D-5L descriptive system of the questionnaire, the precise wording must be followed.

If the respondent has difficulty choosing a response or asks for clarification, the interviewer should repeat the question word for word and ask the respondent to answer in a way that most closely resembles his or her thoughts about his or her health today.

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INTRODUCTION

(Note to interviewer: please read the following to the respondent.)

We are trying to find out what you think about your health. I will explain what to do as I go along, but please interrupt me if you do not understand something or if things are not clear to you. There are no right or wrong answers. We are interested only in your personal view.

First, I am going to read out some questions. Each question has a choice of five answers. Please tell me which answer best describes your health TODAY.

Do not choose more than one answer in each group of questions.

(Note to interviewer: first read all five options for each question. Then ask the respondent to choose which one applies to him/herself. Repeat the question and options if necessary. Mark the appropriate box under each heading. You may need to remind the respondent regularly that the timeframe is TODAY.)

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EQ-5D DESCRIPTIVE SYSTEM

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First, I would like to ask you about MOBILITY. Would you say that:  
(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded. Source: Interview)

- ☐ You have no problems in walking about?
- ☐ You have slight problems in walking about?
- ☐ You have moderate problems in walking about?
- ☐ You have severe problems in walking about?
- ☐ You are unable to walk about?

---

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Next, I would like to ask you about SELF-CARE. Would you say that:  
(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded. Source: Interview)

- ☐ You have no problems washing or dressing yourself?
- ☐ You have slight problems washing or dressing yourself?
- ☐ You have moderate problems washing or dressing yourself?
- ☐ You have severe problems washing or dressing yourself?
- ☐ You are unable to wash or dress yourself?

---

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Next, I would like to ask you about USUAL ACTIVITIES, for example, work, study, housework, family or leisure activities. Would you say that:  
(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded. Source: Interview)

- ☐ You have no problems doing your usual activities?
- ☐ You have slight problems doing your usual activities?
- ☐ You have moderate problems doing your usual activities?
- ☐ You have severe problems doing your usual activities?
- ☐ You are unable to do your usual activities?

---

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Next, I would like to ask you about PAIN OR DISCOMFORT. Would you say that:  
(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded. Source: Interview)

- ☐ You have no pain or discomfort?
- ☐ You have slight pain or discomfort?
- ☐ You have moderate pain or discomfort?
- ☐ You have severe pain or discomfort?
- ☐ You have extreme pain or discomfort?

---

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Finally, I would like to ask you about ANXIETY OR DEPRESSION. Would you say that:  
(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded. Source: Interview)

- ☐ You are not anxious or depressed?
- ☐ You are slightly anxious or depressed?
- ☐ You are moderately anxious or depressed?
- ☐ You are severely anxious or depressed?
- ☐ You are extremely anxious or depressed?

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EQ-5D VAS

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Now, I would like to ask you to say how good or bad your health is TODAY.

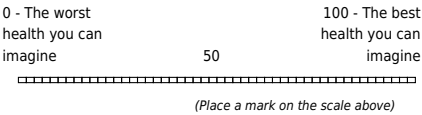
I would like you to picture in your mind a vertical line that is numbered from 0 to 100.  
(Note to interviewer: if interviewing face-to-face, please show the respondent the VAS line.)

100 at the top of the line means the best health you can imagine.  
0 at the bottom of the line means the worst health you can imagine.



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I would now like you to tell me the point on this line where you would put your health TODAY.  
(Note to interviewer: mark the line at the point indicating the respondent's health today.)



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**Disability (WHODAS 2.0)**

Who are you interviewing?

- ☐ Patient participant  
☐ Patient representative  
(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.  
Source: Interview)

What is the relationship between the representative and the participant?

- ☐ Husband or wife  
☐ Parent  
☐ Son or daughter  
☐ Brother or sister  
☐ Other relative  
☐ Friend  
☐ Professional carer  
☐ Other (specify)  
(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.  
Source: Interview)

If other, please specify

**Instructions to the interviewer are written in bold - do not read these aloud.****Text for the respondent to hear is written in italic print in blue. Read this text aloud.****Say to respondent:****The interview is about difficulties people have because of health conditions.****By health condition I mean diseases or illnesses, or other health problems that may be short or long lasting; injuries; mental or emotional problems; and problems with alcohol or drugs.****Remember to keep all of your health problems in mind as you answer the questions. When I ask you about difficulties in doing an activity think about...****Increased effort Discomfort or pain Slowness Changes in the way you do the activity When answering, I'd like you to think back over the past 30 days. I would also like you to answer these questions thinking about how much difficulty you have had, on average, over the past 30 days, while doing the activity as you usually do it.****Use this scale when responding: None, mild, moderate, severe, extreme or cannot do.****In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in:**

Standing for long periods such as 30 minutes?

- ☐ None  
☐ Mild  
☐ Moderate  
☐ Severe  
☐ Extreme or cannot do  
(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.  
Source: Interview)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Taking care of your household responsibilities?  | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Learning a new task, for example, learning how to get to a new place?  | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| How much of a problem did you have joining in community activities (for example, festivities, religious or other activities) in the same way as anyone else can? | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| How much have you been emotionally affected by your health problems?   | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| <b>In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did you have in:</b>   |   |
| Concentrating on doing something for ten minutes?  | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Walking a long distance such as a kilometre [or equivalent]?   | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Washing your whole body?   | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Getting dressed?                     | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Dealing with people you do not know? | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Maintaining a friendship?            | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Your day-to-day work/school?         | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |

**Instructions to the interviewer are written in bold - do not read these aloud.**

**Text for the respondent to hear is written in italic print in blue. Read this text aloud.**

**Say to respondent:**

**The interview is about difficulties people have because of health conditions.**

**By health condition I mean diseases or illnesses, or other health problems that may be short or long lasting; injuries; mental or emotional problems; and problems with alcohol or drugs.**

**Remember to keep all of your health problems in mind as you answer the questions. When I ask you about difficulties in doing an activity think about...**

**Increased effort Discomfort or pain Slowness Changes in the way you do the activity** When answering, I'd like you to think back over the past 30 days and, to the best of your knowledge, answer these questions thinking about how much difficulty your friend, relative or carer had while doing the following activities. I will use the term "relative" to mean "friend", "relative" or "carer". For each question, please give only one response.

**In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did your relative have in:**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Standing for long periods such as 30 minutes?  | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Taking care of his or her household responsibilities?  | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Learning a new task, for example, learning how to get to a new place?  | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| How much of a problem did he or she have joining in community activities (for example, festivities, religious or other activities) in the same way as anyone else can? | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| How much has your relative been emotionally affected by his or her health condition?   | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| <b>In the past 30 days, how much difficulty did your relative have in:</b>   |   |
| Concentrating on doing something for ten minutes?  | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Walking a long distance such as a kilometre [or equivalent]?   | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Washing his or her whole body?   | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Getting dressed?   | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Dealing with people he or she does not know?   | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| Maintaining a friendship?  | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| His or her day-to-day work/school?   | <input type="radio"/> None<br><input type="radio"/> Mild<br><input type="radio"/> Moderate<br><input type="radio"/> Severe<br><input type="radio"/> Extreme or cannot do<br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview) |
| <b>Number of days</b>  |   |
| Overall, in the past 30 days, how many days were these difficulties present?   | <input type="text"/><br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview)   |
| In the past 30 days, for how many days were you totally unable to carry out your usual activities or work because of any health condition?   | <input type="text"/><br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview)   |
| In the past 30 days, not counting the days that you were totally unable, for how many days did you cut back or reduce your usual activities or work because of any health condition? | <input type="text"/><br>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview)   |

Return to work

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Date and time of return to work | (Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br>Source: Interview)   |
| Work status                     | <div><input type="radio"/> Paid work</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Self-employed, such as own your business or farming</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Non-paid work, such as volunteer or charity</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Student</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Keeping house/homemaker</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Not known</div> <div>(Requires opt-in consent, not routinely recorded.<br/>Source: Interview)</div> |

Safety events

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Type of safety event                    | <div><input type="radio"/> Prolonged mechanical ventilation (&gt; 7 days)</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Initiation of renal replacement therapy</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Prolonged (&gt; 2 days) or renewed (restart after at least 2 days without) use of vasopressors such as norepinephrine or vasopressin</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Other<br/>(Source: Medical record or treating physician)</div> |
| Elaborate on other safety event         | <div></div>  |
| Investigator assessment of safety event | <div></div>  |



End of study

|  |  |
|--|--|
| What is the reason for the end of study? | <div><input type="radio"/> Completed follow up</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Lost to follow up</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Death</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Discharge and no consent for follow up</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Withdrawn consent for in-hospital data collection and no consent for follow up</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Withdrawn consent for in-hospital data collection and follow-up</div> <div><input type="radio"/> Withdrawn consent for follow-up</div> |
| Date and time of end of study            |  |