

What Are Pragmatic Clinical Trials?

Lesley Curtis:

So what do we mean when we talk about pragmatic clinical trials? I think the definition or what comes to mind to a lot of those of us involved in the Collaboratory and that is, it's a large, efficient study that's done in the real world and gives us evidence for adoption of some kind of intervention into clinical practice or into the way that that patients are usually treated when they seek care.

We're often focused and should be focused on those kinds of outcomes that are important to the participants in the trial for sure, and also to the decision makers who will use what comes out of the trial to make decisions about the way usual care or the way clinical practice should be changed or modified. These interventions, these pragmatic trials that are embedded by definition intervene in the routine clinical workflow in some way, and that's an important component of these trials that introduces special and challenging considerations, and then often conducted in very diverse or more diverse study populations than would otherwise be the case in a more traditional trial.