



Implementing improved asthma
self-management as routine

Primary Care Respiratory Society (PCRS) and the role of the IMP²ART Professional Advisory Group (PAG).

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Background and Aim:

The role of professional advice in research is often overlooked in comparison to the prominent role of patients whose voice is widely sought as end-users of the service. In the context of health service and implementation research, however, clinicians are also 'users' as complex interventions are integrated into routine care. IMP²ART aimed to implement supported asthma self-management into the routine of UK primary care.

We describe the impact of embedding professional collaboration throughout IMP²ART.

IMP²ART Professional Advisory Group (PAG) involved through the Primary Care Respiratory Society

Impact: The PCRS Professional Advisory Group provided input through 18 professionals (included GPs, pharmacists, primary/community nurses, secondary and integrated care consultants).

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Activity: Outline of each meeting

Outline: scheduled approximately annually, included an update on progress with the research, discussions about changes in the primary care context and the practicalities of implementation strategies, and interpretation of trial outcomes.

Meeting 1: Outline of research proposal and implications of the policy of 'federated practices' for the trial; content and format of potential resources (January 2019)

Impact: To help inform development of proposal as many practices were federating at this stage of the trial – and how to recruit and manage this changing environment.

Meeting 2: Strategies for engaging the practice team in the IMP²ART strategy (December 2019)

Impact: To help inform strategies to engage practices and enhance recruitment.

Meeting 3: Impact of the pandemic on long-term condition care, remote consulting and practicalities of action plan provision (June 2020)

Impact: Helped inform discussions on how care had adapted during the early phase of the pandemic and some of the issues for clinical practice.

Meeting 5/6: Discussion of the findings of the process evaluation (June 2025) and views on equity considerations (September 2025)

Impact: To provide early information on the findings of the trial – and understand the clinical implications of this.

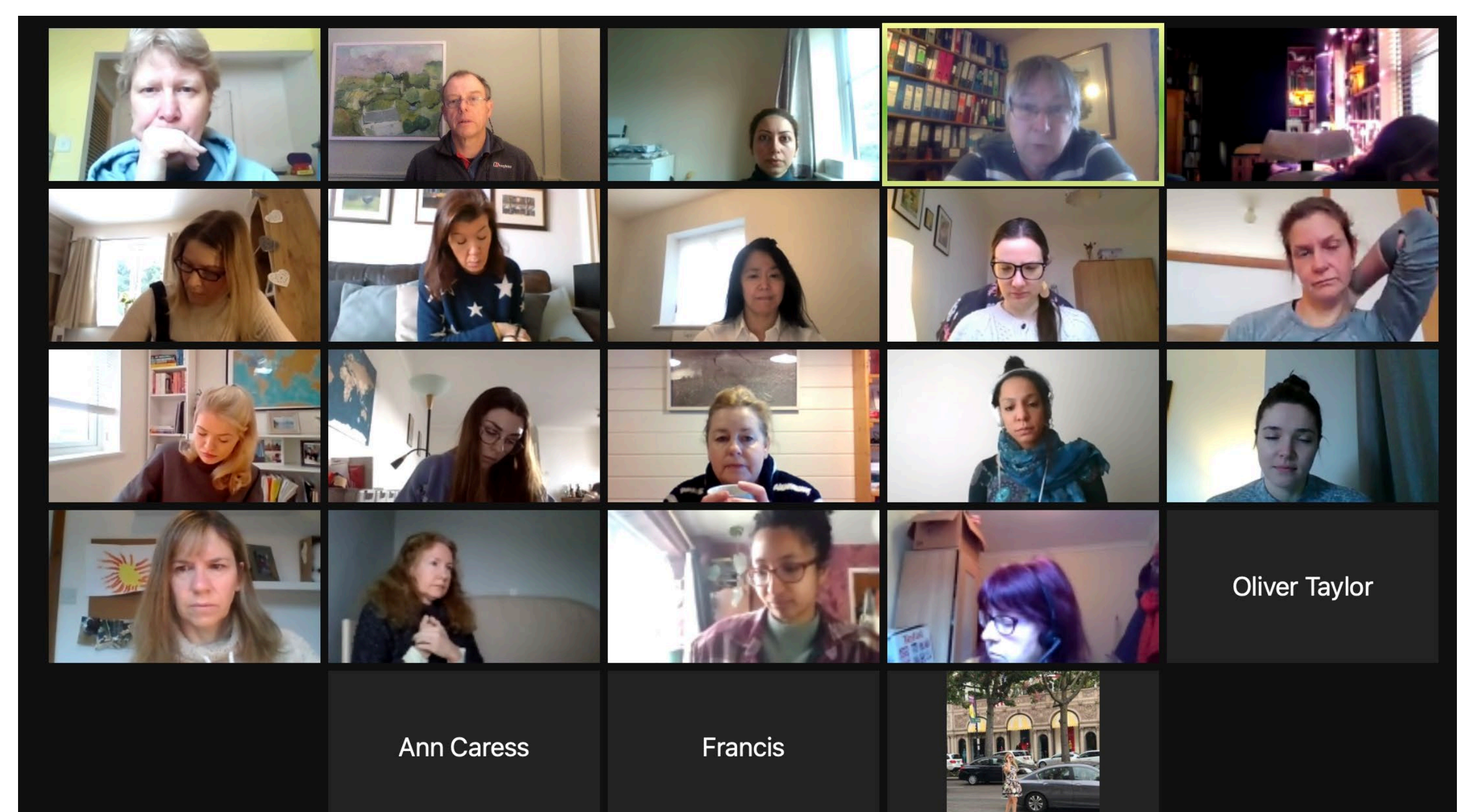


Methods:

- The Primary Care Respiratory Society (PCRS) was a key collaborator from the outset of the IMP²ART programme of work.
- A PCRS colleague was a co-applicant and contributed to the design of the research.
- We established a Professional Advisory Group (PAG) who met regularly to advise on development of resources and implementation strategies, support trial recruitment and discuss emerging findings.

Six Meetings planned roughly annually to help inform progress of IMP²ART

Impact: Ensured the process was relevant to primary care across wider UK community



Meeting 4: If/how routine care is being re-established in the aftermath of the pandemic (March 2022)

Impact: To aid the IMP²ART team in re-establishing how care was returning to normal after the pandemic – and the implications for clinical practice and the trial.

Other contributions from PCRS

Throughout the trial period the IMP²ART team has regularly produced posters for the PCRS conference (along with conferences at the International Primary Care Respiratory Group Meetings).

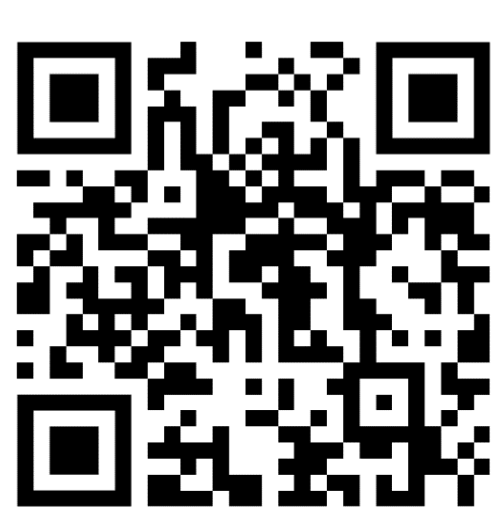
Impact: This has allowed wider discussions and testing of IMP²ART team thinking on progress of the trial.

Key Learning:

Meaningful Professional Advisory Group input is enabled by sustained relationships, clear feedback on impact, appropriate support and opportunities to contribute across all stages of research. Our approach is transferable to other research and can enhance the development, implementation and dissemination of interventions.

Discussion:

Professional advice proved invaluable to the IMP²ART research, guiding developmental phases, advising on practicalities, describing the impact of contextual changes and interpreting findings. The PAG allowed PCRS colleagues to contribute, learn, understand different practice and research better.



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