

W3.1 – The inclusion gap in trials using health systems data: what funders expect and what to do about it

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Workshop summary

Designing trials using health systems data (HSD) comes with real opportunities - but also hidden risks for research inclusion.

This interactive workshop goes beyond theory to show how inclusion can be meaningfully embedded, justified, and defended in funding applications. You'll work through real-world scenarios to identify who may be missed in routine data, where bias can be introduced across the trial lifecycle, and how to apply proportionate, funder-aligned strategies. Through a mock grant review and hands-on application-writing exercise, you'll gain practical experience in critiquing and strengthening inclusion approaches.

Drawing on insights from the HDR UK Transforming Data for Trials programme, NHS England, and public contributors, the session brings together methodological, operational, and lived-experience perspectives. You'll leave with clear, actionable principles, stronger justification skills, and greater confidence in designing inclusive, data-enabled trials that meet funder expectations.