

# DISCO

Diagnosing Care Home **UTI**

## Experience of the delivery challenges: supporting a community trust research team delivering a feasibility study in care homes

### The Study Background

Urinary tract infections (UTI) are one of the most common acute medical conditions diagnosed in older people living in care homes. Missing a UTI risks possible blood stream infection, unplanned admissions and death, however inappropriate use of antibiotics adds to the burden of antimicrobial resistance. The recognition and diagnosis of UTI in this population is challenging, this is complicated further by a lack of useful diagnostic tests.

### Objectives

- Identify clinical predictors of serious illness
- Potential future diagnostic tests
- Link between asymptomatic bacteriuria and UTI?
- Inform design of future study

### Study Design



### The Collaboration

#### Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare (HIOW Healthcare)

- HIOW Healthcare's Research team previously set up a 'Community Research Partnership' to communicate that research is available in out of hospital settings, including care homes, making research more accessible. The team had experience delivering numerous care home studies in a variety of local homes.
- The SCRRDN Agile team supported HIOW Healthcare research team deliver DISCO UTI.
- The recruitment process began with a staggered approach, starting with one local care home where we optimised delivery processes before rolling out other care homes. The team opted for a larger staff presence on recruitment days, drawing from the RRDN Agile team to bolster delivery staff.

### The Research Delivery Challenges

#### Communication

-  Sample requests missed
-  Resident UTIs not handed over
-  Clarification about who is collecting sample

#### Sample collection

-  Resident issues - consider planning if participant has mobility / cognitive challenges
-  Timing - due to resident challenges, collecting a sample took a lot more time and involvement
-  Facilities (no bowls/pots)
-  Quantity (amount of sample)

### The Key Learnings

- Staffing and Sample Collection: Plan staffing to account for longer sample collection times and discuss optimal methods with Care Home managers.
- Visit Times: Coordinate visit schedules with Care Home management to align with their optimal times for research activities.
- Workspace: Assess and plan for adequate workspace within Care Homes, as this can be a limiting factor.
- Handover Process: Clearly define the Care Home handover process (where, when, who, how).
- Resident Considerations: Factor in resident mobility and capacity, especially for studies requiring repeated samples.
- Capacity Assessment: Ensure a clear understanding of capacity assessment, differentiating between clinical and research aspects.