Emergency Department Information Sheet

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Summary

- We aim to assess reasons for attendance of all patients at A&E
- There will be a short survey
- Participation is voluntary
- You can withdraw at any time
- We will ask if we can look at other hospital data for you
- All personal information about you will be kept confidential

What is the purpose of the study?

We are conducting a very short survey in Emergency Departments in England and Scotland and are asking all patients, who are medically capable, to take part. The information gathered will help researchers to better understand whether or not alcohol contributes to the number of attendances at Emergency Departments and how effective different approaches to preventing alcohol harms are. It is important that we get responses from people who do not consume alcohol, as well as those who do not.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You do not have to take part if you do not want to. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and asked to sign a consent form. You will be free to withdraw from the study at any time and without giving a reason. A decision to take part or not, or to withdraw from the study at any time, will not affect the standard of care and treatment you receive. The information we get from this study may help us to prevent people experiencing alcohol-related harms in the future.

What will happen if I take part?

If you are willing to take part, a trained member of the research team will take you to a private area within the Emergency Department. The researcher will ask you to complete a consent form and then ask you some questions about the reason for your attendance today and your alcohol drinking. You do not need to drink alcohol to take part in the study. The questionnaire will take between 4 and 8 minutes to complete. You can refuse to answer any of the questions without giving a reason. Your care will not be delayed in any way by taking part in this study.

Will you need to look at my health records for this study?

During the consent process, we will ask you if we can look at your Emergency Department record for further details of today’s attendance. We will also ask if we can continue to follow up on your health through accessing coded health records. These records hold data on you about medical diagnoses and health care received (such as in-patient visits to hospital). By linking this information with the survey, we can look at how people’s lifestyles and health today impact on their future health. Linking of this information will be carried out by NHS organisations with strict confidentiality processes in place. Researchers would not be given information that could potentially identify you. You are free to withdraw from being followed up in this way at any time by contacting the MRC as detailed below.
You can still participate in the study but choose not to have your information linked in this way if you wish.

**Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

All the information we collect during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential and there are strict laws which safeguard your privacy at every stage. Your name will appear on the consent form (which will be stored securely and separately from all other information) but will not appear anywhere else. You will not be identifiable during the analysis of the data. You will not be approached again by researchers in relation to this study. Any invitations that you have in the future to be involved in research would be completely coincidental.

**What will happen to the results of the study?**

The study will be written up as a report for dissemination to the National Institute for Health Research who are funding the study and to all participating Emergency Departments. Attempts will be made to publish the findings in medical journals and/or present them at conferences so that a wider range of doctors and researchers can learn from them.

A plain language summary of the results will be made available to the public at: https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk

**Who is carrying out the research?**

A collaboration of researchers from across the UK is carrying out this research, led by the University of Glasgow’s Social and Public Health Sciences Unit (www.sphsu.mrc.ac.uk). The Social and Public Health Sciences Unit aims to promote human health by the study of social, behavioural, economic and environmental influences on health. It is funded by a range of bodies including the National Institute for Health Research, The Scottish Government and the Chief Scientists Office but is independent in its choice of which research to support.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The study proposal has been reviewed by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). A favourable opinion was received from the South East Scotland Research Ethics Committee. NHS Research & Development permission has been obtained from all participating NHS organisations.

Further Information about the Study

If you have any further questions about the study and want to speak to someone not directly involved in the study, please contact Marcela Gavigan (Population Health Research Facility Manager) on: 0141 353 7520 or email: marcela.gavigan@glasgow.ac.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read the information sheet. Please feel free to ask the project research worker for clarification or about any concerns you may have about the project.

**Further Information about Alcohol**

If you are concerned about any issues related to the questions asked in this study or would like further information on where you can obtain help in relation to your drinking you can contact:

Freephone DrinkLine 0800-917-8282 (11am-7pm Mon - Fri).