

Participant Information Sheet

'Flu vaccine uptake in Healthcare workers: a qualitative study.'

My name is Rhiannon Edge and I am conducting this research as a student in the Statistics and Epidemiology PhD programme at Lancaster University, Lancaster, United Kingdom.

What is the study about?

The purpose of this study is to look at the interactions between healthcare workers in the context of individual vaccination decisions. This study follows on from two studies using medical students in 2013-14 and Foundation Doctors in 2014-15. The current study seeks to explore individuals' attitudes to having the 'flu vaccine and how social interaction may shape opinions and vaccination behaviour. We are interested in understanding what drives a person to vaccinate or abstain and whether or not their social interactions effect this.

I will arrange an interview time at your convenience. These will be anonymised and then be transcribed and analysed. I will have access to the data along with my supervisors, Dr Rachel Isba, Dr Thomas Keegan, Dr Dawn Goodwin and Prof. Peter Diggle.

Why have I been approached?

You have been approached because the study requires information from foundation doctors within the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust and Medical Students at Lancaster University. This study is specifically exploring healthcare workers 'flu vaccination habitats.

Do I have to take part?

No. It's completely up to you to decide whether or not you take part. There are no negative consequences should you decide not to take part in this study.

What will I be asked to do if I take part?

If you decide you would like to take part, you would be asked to sign a consent form and then participants will be invited to attend an interview. The interview will take up to an hour and you will be reimbursed for your travel expenses. You will be asked to fill out a data collection sheet – this will ask you about your relationship with others in the medical school.

Will my data be confidential?

The information you provide is confidential. You will be asked to sign a consent form and to write your name on the data collection sheet, as it is necessary for the data analysis. However, these sheets will be anonymised by Dr Isba by giving you a unique code before I input the data. This means that nobody will be able to tell who you are or what you have put for your answers. The data collected for this study will be stored securely in Dr Goodwin's office and only the researchers conducting this study will have access to the data once they have been anonymised. If you decide to take part in the interview the researcher will be aware of who you are however, data from these will be anonymised prior to analysis. Confidentiality will only be broken if I and my supervisors believe you are likely to harm yourself or others. If this is the case we will inform you and the relevant authorities. Some direct quotes may be used during publication of the research – if this is the case your identity will be hidden.

- hard copies of questionnaires will be kept in a locked cabinet to which only Dr Goodwin has the key and, as is usual research practice, will be kept for five years before being destroyed
- computer files of anonymous data will be used on password-protected and encrypted computers only.
- audio files will be destroyed after completion of my PhD and interview transcripts will be destroyed after 5 years.
- whilst every effort will be made, it is not possible to ensure confidentiality of participation where the interview takes place on work premises during the working day

What will happen to the results?

The anonymous results will be summarised and reported in a PhD thesis, may be submitted for publication in an academic or professional journal, and will be used in presentations at conferences and meetings. There will be no way of identifying you.

Are there any risks?

There are no risks anticipated with participating in this study. However, if you experience any distress following participation you are encouraged to inform the researcher and seek help and advice. Some suggested resources are provided at the end of this sheet.

Are there any benefits to taking part?

You may find participating interesting, and whilst there are no direct benefits for you to take part the results from these study may be used to inform future occupational health and safety policy for healthcare workers.

What happens if I want to withdraw?

Participants may withdraw their consent to be directly quoted at any point up to the point of PhD thesis submission (2017).

Who has reviewed the project?

This study has been reviewed by the Faculty of Health and Medicine Research Ethics Committee, and approved by the University Research Ethics Committee at Lancaster University. This study has also been reviewed by the Research and Development Committee at the Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, and approved by the Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees (GAfREC).

Where can I obtain further information about the study if I need it?

If you have any questions about the study, please contact the main researcher:

Rhiannon Edge
r.edge@lancaster.ac.uk

Supervisor: Dr Dawn
Goodwin
d.goodwin@lancs.ac.uk

Complaints

If you wish to make a complaint or raise concerns about any aspect of this study and do not want to speak to the researcher, you can contact:

Head of Medical Education
Title: Dr Colin Melville
Email: c.melville@lancaster.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0)1524 595240
Lancaster Medical
School Furness
Building Lancaster
University Lancaster
LA1 4YG

If you wish to speak to someone outside of the Medical Programme, you may also contact:

Professor Roger Pickup
Tel: (01524) 593746
Associate Dean for Research
Email: r.pickup@lancaster.ac.uk
Faculty of Health and Medicine (Division of Biomedical and Life Sciences)
Lancaster University
Lancaster
LA1 4YD

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

Resources in the event of distress

Should you feel distressed either as a result of taking part, or in the future, the following resources may be of assistance.

Mind – mental health charity

The Angel
1 St Philips Place
Salford
Manchester
M3 6FA

Telephone: 0161 8393030
Email: advocacy@mindinsalford.org.uk

Health &
Medicine

Lancaster
University

