Draft Information sheet: GP interviews

We are inviting you to take part in a research project called: Electronic Risk Assessment for Cancer (ERICA) led by Professor Willie Hamilton at the University of Exeter Medical School.

Please read this information to help you decide if you would like to take part in the study.

What is this research about?

As you know, the UK performs poorly for cancer survival compared to similar European countries. Part of this problem is attributed to the greater proportion of UK cancers diagnosed at a late stage. A team led by Professor Willie Hamilton at the University of Exeter have devised cancer site specific electronic risk assessment tools (eRATs) to alert GPs via their computers when patients present with symptoms of a 2% or higher risk of cancer. Your practice has access to the tools and you will have likely encountered them as part of your clinical practice. We would like to know about your experiences of being involved in the ERICA study as well as how you got on with the eRATs.

What does taking part involve?

We would like to interview you either by telephone or in person for up to half an hour, at a time and place that suits you. We will ask you about your experience of using the eRATs within your patient consultations. We are interested in learning about:

- Your experience of using eRATs
- Any functioning issues you experienced
- How clinically useful you have found using them.

We will tape record the interview; this will be typed up by a professional transcriber. We will keep all of your responses confidential.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is entirely voluntary. If you do take part in the study you will be asked to sign a consent form. You are always free to withdraw at any time. You do not have to give a reason for withdrawing. If you do withdraw any information that you have already given will remain part of the study.

What are the benefits or advantages of taking part?

Although you would not receive any money for taking part, participating in research like this helps to improve future patient care. This research is specifically exploring

whether the eRATs are effective in catching cancers earlier - potentially saving lives. Your role within this research would be to help us understand how clinically useful GPs find eRATs.

What are the risks or disadvantages of taking part?

You will be asked to give up to half an hour of your time in total. We do not envisage any serious risks in taking part in the study. As part of the interview, you may reflect on your workload and challenges at work. We realise that might be sensitive for some people. Details for the doctor's support network is given below if you require further support. You do not have to answer every question and you can choose to stop the interview at any time.

What if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy about any aspect of the study then please contact the researcher or trial manager (details given below) who will address your issues. You can also contact Ms Pam Baxter at Exeter University who specialises in making sure that research studies are run appropriately. Pam's contact details are:

Ms Pam Baxter
Senior Research Governance Officer
University of Exeter
Research Ethics and Governance Office
Lafrowda House
St Germans Road
Exeter
EX4 6TL
Tel: 01392 723588
Email: p.r.baxter2@exeter.ac.uk

Will my participation be kept confidential?

Yes. Only researchers within the ERICA trial and selected staff at your GP surgery (e.g., the staff manager) will know of your participation in the study. Any data collected during interview will later be anonymised. Personal data will be stored securely at the University of Exeter Medical School where only members of the ERICA research team will have access to identifiable data.

For the purposes of this study we will also use consent to protect your confidentiality and provide you with choice in your participation. All information collected in this study will be kept strictly confidential and stored either on an encrypted password protected computer, or in a locked cabinet at the University, which can only be accessed by the researcher (and research supervisors). You will be allocated a unique participant

number, which will ensure the information from your interview(s) will be protected and cannot be identified by anyone else. Any personally identifiable information will be stored separately and securely from information obtained from the research.

How will my data be used?

Your responses to our questions will be used to inform the main study question: how useful are risk assessment tools in the clinical setting? We may anonymously quote some of your answers for educational purposes, in research reports, research presentations or for publication. We will use a pseudonym (a false name) or a unique code when we present your findings. This means that people reading it will not be able to identify you.

Who will you share my data with?

Access to personal data will be restricted to the ERICA research team. Names and participant details will not be passed to any third parties and no named individuals will be included in the write up of the results. We will share your audio-recording with a professional transcriber, who will type out the interview. This transcriber will have signed a confidentiality agreement with us.

How will you share my data?

We will ensure that the interview data are passed securely to the transcription service. We will encrypt and password-protect the audio file, so only the individual responsible for transcribing your interview will be able to open it. The transcriber will keep your interview data confidential. They will permanently destroy the audio file after transcribing it. The transcript will then be securely passed back to the research team.

When will you share it?

We will pass the audio file to the transcriber within 28 days of your interview.

What will happen to my data after the study?

We will retain your anonymised interview transcripts for the purposes of future research, subsequent analyses or for educational purposes. Within the next five years, your anonymised data may be made available to third parties for research purposes only – providing those parties have received approvals from an independent ethical review committee. Your personal identifying data will be kept for 5 years under secure conditions on University of Exeter servers. Data will be collected and retained in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act 2018, and managed in accordance with the trial-specific standard operating procedure for data management.

You will be allocated a unique study ID or pseudonym and the information linking your ID to your personal information will be kept separately and securely at the University of Exeter. Audio recordings will be digitised, encrypted and stored on the University's secure server. Audio recordings will be retained until after anonymised transcripts have been finalised and analysed. At this stage they will be securely and permanently deleted.

How will the results of the research study be used?

Once the study is complete, the results will be written up and published in scientific journals and presented at national and international academic conferences. If you would like a copy of any publication or a summary of the results, please let the researcher know.

Note on data processing

Due to recent regulatory changes in the way that data is processed (General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and the Data Protection Act 2018) the University of Exeter's lawful basis to process personal data for the purposes of carrying out research is termed as a 'task in the public interest'. The University will endeavour to be transparent about its processing of your personal data and this information sheet should provide a clear explanation of this. If you do have any queries about the University's processing of your personal data that cannot be resolved by the research team, further information may be obtained from the University's Data Protection Officer by emailing dataprotection@exeter.ac.uk or at www.exeter.ac.uk/dataprotection. If you have any concerns about how the data is controlled and managed for this study then you can contact Pam Baxter, Senior Research Governance Officer, whose details are above.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

Ethical approval and review

This project has been granted ethical approval by London – City & East Research Ethics Committee.

The Doctor's Support Network (DSN) is a registered charity and confidential peer support network for doctors. You can contact them by email via this link: https://www.dsn.org.uk/contact

Thank you for reading this information

If you would like to take part or have any further questions, please contact:

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