PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LEAFLET
For Healthcare Professionals and Stakeholders

Understanding the Impact of Remote Consultations in Sexual and Reproductive Health Services on Health Inequalities

Help Us to Improve Sexual & Reproductive Health Services!

We are carrying out research to understand what people think about consultations in sexual and reproductive health services.

If you take part, all information will be treated confidentially. Please take the time to read this information leaflet carefully.

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PART ONE of this information leaflet tells you the reasons for doing this study, what will happen to you if you take part, and what the benefits are.

PART TWO gives you more detailed information about how the study is being run and how your data will be used.

PART ONE

What is the CONNECT Study?

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a rapid move from in-person (face-to-face) consultations for sexual and reproductive health services to remote consultants (telephone, video, online or text).

This research study will ask staff and patients what they think about these, see whether these changes have introduced any health inequalities, and will codevelop recommendations for inclusive and patient led consultations going forward.

The health inequalities we will explore during this research will include investigating whether there are differences in health and healthcare between groups of people in terms of access to contraception and sexual services, how quickly treatment is received and whether effective treatment is given.

Why are my views important?

We want to understand your views and experiences of consultations in sexual and reproductive health services. For example, we will ask about your views on different methods of conducting consultations such as face-to-face, over the telephone, or online. We will also ask for your views on impacts for different population groups. Your answers will help us to improve care and support.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited because you are a healthcare professional/ healthcare expert/ clinician/ stakeholder with experience or interest in sexual and reproductive health services. Your perspective will help us ensure the findings are relevant and useful.

How do I get involved?

Please complete the questionnaire online here or via our website https://forms.office.com/e/gtukD8g26x

The survey will take around 10 minutes to complete. There are two surveys. If you complete the first survey, you will be sent the link for the second survey, if you tell us that you would like to take part.

If you have any queries feel free to contact our researchers directly or discuss with your local research team using the information at the end of this leaflet.

What will happen if I take part?

If you decide to take part in the survey, you will first be asked to complete a form to give informed consent. Following this you will be given some questions and statements. There are also some questions regarding background, these are optional, you can choose to complete all or some of them based on how comfortable you feel.

What are the possible disadvantages/risks of taking part?

Some of the topics may feel sensitive as they relate to sexual and reproductive health. You can choose not to answer any question and can step away at any time.

All questionnaire answers are optional and you do not need to answer any questions you are uncomfortable with.

What are the benefits of taking part?

The information that we get from this study will be used to ensure people have a say in what services are provided locally. We will share our findings with people who manage and design NHS services so that they can ensure the right kinds of care and support are available.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

Yes. We will only use information that we need for the research study. Your name and contact details will only be shared with those who need to know (the researchers carrying out the study). Everyone involved in this study will keep your data safe and secure. We will also follow privacy rules. At the end of the study we will save some of the data and it may be used for future research. We will make sure no-one can identify you from the reports we write. More information about how your data is used and stored can be found in PART TWO of this leaflet.

If this research interests you, please continue to read PART TWO of this information leaflet for more information about the study

PART TWO

Who is sponsoring and funding the study?

The study is organised and Sponsored by the University of Birmingham, and is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). *[Insert local clinic details]* has given its support to the study.

Who has reviewed this study?

All research in the NHS has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by an independent Research Ethics Committee to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. This study has been approved by the North of Scotland Research Ethics Committee 2.

How are patients and the public involved in this study?

Public members sit on the panel that reviewed and agreed to fund the trial. We have consulted a group of service users during the design of this study. Our involvement of patients and the public will continue throughout the study.

What if I have questions?

If you have questions about this study you can access the study website or contact our researcher, or the Principal Investigator at your study centre – see Contact Details at the end of this leaflet. The study leads - Professor Louise Jackson (University of Birmingham) and Prof Jonathan Ross (University Hospitals Birmingham) – both contactable via CONNECT-Study@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

More information about how my data will be used

Who is responsible for my data?

The University of Birmingham is the sponsor for this research. The University of Birmingham is responsible for looking after your information.

As Sponsor of the study, the University of Birmingham (UoB) is the data controller and has a legal obligation to hold your data in accordance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for public interest. Regulatory authorities will be given access to your data to check the study is carried out correctly.

How will my information be used?

We will need to use information from you for this research project.

This information will include your name, age, gender, ethnic group, sexual orientation, education and details about your health collected on the questionnaire. People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly. This information will be used ensure we are including a wide range of people in the research. Through the survey we will collect your views on consultations in contraception and sexual health services and will use this information only for research.

How will my information be transferred?

Survey data will be collected by the University of Birmingham .

How will my information be stored?

We will keep all information about you safe and secure by the following:

- All study data collected on paper will be held securely, in a locked room and within a locked cabinet that is accessible only to the research team at UoB.
- Computer files will be stored in password protected folders on encrypted computers that only the research teams at UoB can access. These include consent forms which can be completed electronically on UoB secure servers and survey responses which will be collected through Microsoft forms.
- After the survey has been submitted, data collected about you will not be linked to your name and you will be given a unique study ID number.

What will happen to my information when the study completes?

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

A copy of your consent form will be retained for a maximum of 10 years. The study data will then be fully anonymised and securely archived for a maximum of 10 years.

What are my choices about how my information is used?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

What are my choices about how my information is used?

You can stop completing the questionnaire at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. Once you have completed the survey, it will not be possible for you to withdraw your consent for the study. This is because questionnaire responses will be anonymized and it will not be possible for us to retrieve your responses. This helps to ensure trust and confidence in the methods used and the research findings (research integrity). We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

Where can I find out more about how my information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information:

- The researcher - see Contact Details at the end of this leaflet.
- Sponsor's Data Protection Officer (dataprotection@contacts.bham.ac.uk)
- Visit www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/ (printed copy available on request).

What will happen to the results of the research study?

Once the research is complete we will publish the results in an academic journal. A link to the published results, together with a short lay summary of the study results will be provided on our website when available.

What if I have a complaint?

If you wish to complain about how researchers have handled your information, you should contact the research team.

If you are not happy after that, you should contact the Data Protection Officer.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Participant Information Leaflet.

Researcher Contact Details:
Tel: 0121 414 6486
Email: CONNECT-Study@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Study website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/connect-study
Health Economics Unit, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TT

Principal Investigator at your Study Centre:
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Local Research Team:
Research& Delivery Teams at UHB, CNWL, Hywel Dda