PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LEAFLET
For Service Users/Potential Service Users

CONNECT

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

Help Us to Improve Sexual Health & Contraception Services!

At the University of Birmingham, we are carrying out research to find out what people think of sexual health and contraception services.

If you can take part, your response will be treated confidentially.

Please take the time to read this information leaflet carefully.

CONTENTS

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 health and contraceptive services to remote consultants (telephone, video, online or text).

This research study will ask what patients and staff think about these changes, see whether these changes have introduced any health inequalities, and look at how best we can deliver these services 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 know about your experiences of having an appointment, or trying to make an appointment, with sexual health and contraception services. For example, we will ask what you think about different ways you can have a consultation - e.g. face-to-face, over the telephone or online. Your answers will help us to check that we are providing the right kinds of care and support.

Who is taking part in the study?

We are asking all patients if they would be interested in taking part in a survey where they must rank based on their own priority, how much they agree with each statement. We plan to carry out around 30 surveys in total. If you decide not to participate in the study, it will not affect your care in any way.

How do I get involved?

- You can access the survey here or via our website https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=z8oksN7eQUKhXDyX1VPp82-MM9En9BVAotBu_vU1zyxUQjhLQzBQV1Q4RVcxUlFBRk1ITjBQVlVUMC4u&route=shorturl
- Alternatively, you can contact the study researchers, on tel. 0121 414 6486 or email CONNECT-Study@contacts.bham.ac.uk.
- Alternatively, fill in the *'I'm interested in taking part in the CONNECT Study!' Expression of Interest Form* and put it in the CONNECT secure

locked box in the centre. The form asks for your name and contact details and records your consent to be contacted by the researchers.

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. After that, you can click the link below to register for a voucher as a thank you for taking part.

If you would like to speak with someone about your sexual health or contraception, we can share details of local services that can support you.

What are the possible disadvantages/risks of taking part?

The risks in this study are low, however some people may feel uncomfortable with answering some of the survey questions.

In the survey, we will only ask for your experiences and views of having an appointment and will not ask you about your health. In the questionnaire, you will be asked some personal information, including your age group, gender and ethnic group, to ensure a wide range of people take part in the research. All the responses of the survey will remain confidential and anonymous.

If you feel uncomfortable and if necessary, the researcher can put you in touch with support if required.

What are the benefits of taking part?

The information that we get from this study will be used to make sure that people have a say in what services are provided locally. We will also share our findings with the people who manage and design NHS services so that they can make sure that 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. 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 work out who you are 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 organising 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). The following NHS organisations have given support for the study:

- Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust
- Hywel Dda University Health Board
- University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

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 received a favourable opinion from 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 (PPI) will continue throughout the study.

What if I have questions?

If you have any questions about this study, you can access the study website or contact our researchers via CONNECT-Study@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

You can also contact your hospital Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) for independent advice about taking part – see Contact Details at the end of this leaflet.

What if I change my mind?

Your decision to take part in this research is entirely voluntary and you can change your mind at any stage without offering a reason and without it affecting your care. You can stop completing the survey at any time. Once you have submitted your responses to the survey it will not be possible for us to remove your data. This is because survey responses will be anonymous. This helps to ensure trust and confidence in the methods used and the research findings (research integrity).

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. No third parties will receive this information.

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.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

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

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

What if I have a complaint?

If you wish to complain about any aspects of the research, you can do so through the Patient Advise and Liaison Service (PALS) (see Contact Details). 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, the researcher will give you the contact details for the Data Protection Officer.

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

CONTACT DETAILS

Researcher Contact Details:
Tel: 0121 414 6486
Email: CONNECT-Study@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Study website: wwww.birmingham.ac.uk/connect-study
(We will publish our findings on this website when the study is completed)
Health Economics Unit, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TT

If you have concerns about contraception or sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or testing you can find more information at your local hospital's website or by telephoning your local clinic.