



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 consultations (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 co-develop 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.

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.

Who is taking part in the study?

We are asking a range of people who work in or are connected to sexual and reproductive health services if they would be interested in giving a one-to-one interview. We plan to carry out around 45 interviews in total.

How do I get involved?

Please complete the questionnaire online at:



The questionnaire asks for your name, contact details and some background information. All questions are optional and you can choose which questions to answer and which you would rather not answer.

You do not need to give a reason for skipping any questions. We are aiming to interview people with as broad a range of characteristics and experiences as possible. This means that we may not be able to interview everyone that expresses an interest in taking part. Once we have your completed questionnaire, the researcher will be in touch to let you know whether we are able to interview you on this occasion.

Alternatively, you can visit our website to find out more, 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?

One of our researchers will contact you to discuss involvement and remind you about the study's aims. You will also be asked to complete the *Screening Questionnaire* (if not already complete). The researcher will then be in touch to let you know whether you have been selected for interview and if you choose to take part, you will be asked to read and sign a *Consent Form*.

There will be a one-to-one interview with a researcher. The interview can be held in the centre, on university premises, online, or over the telephone - whatever works best for you.

We will ask for your views and experiences of consultations in sexual and reproductive health services, and your views about the impacts for different population groups, and potential impacts on health inequalities. So that we can capture all your views, the interview will take up to 45 minutes.

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 questionnaire or interview questions.

In the interview we will only ask for your experiences of consultations, and your views about the impact for different population groups and on health inequalities. In the screening questionnaire, you will be asked some personal information (your gender and ethnic group), and a few questions about your employment to ensure a wide range of people take part in the research.

All questionnaire and interview answers are optional and you do not need to answer any questions you are uncomfortable with. The researchers will stop the interview if necessary.

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). 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 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 - Dr Louise Jackson (University of Birmingham) and Prof Jonathan Ross (University Hospitals Birmingham) – both contactable via CONNECT-Study@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

How will my information be used?

We will need to use information from you for this research project. This information will include your name and contact details. People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly.

People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead. We will keep all information about you safe and secure. Once interview recordings have been typed up (anonymously), the original audio recording will be deleted. 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.

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. If you have already given the interview and no longer wish for your data to be used, please contact the researcher within 7 days to withdraw your consent to using your data. If we have not heard from you within this time period, the interview data will still be used in the study analysis. 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?

- 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

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