Participant Information Sheet – Dental Professional Focus Group.

Study title: Development of oral health initiatives to improve glycaemic control.

You are being invited to take part in a research focus group. It is very important that you understand why the research is being carried out and what it will involve before you decide if you would like to take part.

Please take time to read the following information and if there is anything that is not clear or you would like more information then please feel free to ask.

**What is the purpose of this study?**

People with diabetes are at increased risk of developing periodontitis, which can adversely impact on their diabetes control. Yet, medical (diabetes) and dental (periodontal) management are not integrated with each other. The long term aim of this research is to reduce the present gap that exists between evidence and practice in the area of diabetes and periodontitis by working with: medical healthcare professionals to improve their knowledge and awareness of the recognised bidirectional relationship between diabetes and periodontitis; and also medical and dental healthcare professionals and people with diabetes to co-design an intervention that will bring the oral health needs of people with diabetes into focus within a diabetes context.

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited to take part in a focus group because you are a dental professional working in a practice where people with diabetes may be referred for an NHS periodontal assessment from their healthcare professional (GP or nurse). During the focus group, we are going to discuss your experience of providing periodontal care (assessment, treatment and subsequent monitoring and referral to specialist services as appropriate) under an NHS contract. The focus group invites participants to discuss the barriers and facilitators that they have experienced in providing NHS periodontal care.

**Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form on the day of the focus group. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time up until the focus group. During and after the focus group, it will not be possible for you to withdraw your data.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

We hope you feel that you can contribute to this project. Your support could help us develop oral health interventions which are feasible and acceptable to yourself, healthcare professionals and patients.

A small benefit is that you will be provided with refreshments, for example lunch.

**What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you agree to take part in this project, you will be invited to attend a focus group on a date and venue to be agreed. The focus group will take 30-45 minutes, depending on the length of discussion, and will be audio recorded. All aspects of delivering periodontal care will be explored to evaluate the practicalities of offering NHS periodontitis treatment.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

The focus group will be audio-recorded and transcribed, removing any identifiable information from the data. Anything that you say will be confidential. The only time that we would reveal anything to the appropriate authority would be if you divulge information that we feel could potentially put you or another person at risk of harm. The audio recording will be destroyed following completion of the data analysis.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The results of the project will be published in a paper, but you will not be identified in any way. All comments or quotations used in the final report will be anonymous. If you would like we can send you a PDF file of the paper.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

This project has received ethical approval from Greater Manchester West Research Ethics Committee (reference 16/NW/0030) and R&D approval from Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals Trust.

**Any questions?**

You may have some questions after you have read this information sheet. Please forward any queries that you may have to the principal investigator. If you do decide to participate then we will ask you to sign a consent form before we proceed.

It is important that you feel that you are able to contact the Chief Investigator at any time to ask questions or if you decide to drop out of the research.

All queries, please contact the Chief Investigator:

 Susan Bissett (NIHR Doctoral Research Fellow)

 Telephone: 0191 208 8319

 Email: s.m.bissett@ncl.ac.uk

If you have a complaint, please contact:

 Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

 Telephone: 0800 032 02 02 (9:00 – 16:30 and answer phone at all other times)

 Fax: 01670 511260 Text: 01670 511098

 Email: northoftynepals@nhct.nhs.uk