

Study information sheet for primary care medical and dental healthcare professionals

Study title: Oral Health in People with Learning Disabilities

You are invited to participate in some research. This document has been developed to help you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. Please take time to read the following information fully. Talk to others about this study if you wish. Ask us if there is anything which is not clear or if you would like further information. Take time to decide whether or not you want to take part.

1. Why have I been approached?

You have been approached as you are a dentist (GDP) or doctor (GP) in Primary Care. We are interested in conducting a co-review (and re-design) of dental care provision for people with learning disabilities in North East and North Cumbria.

2. What is the purpose of the study?

Provision of dentistry for individuals with learning disabilities has often been seen as part of the remit of community dental services as this patient group may have additional needs that require extra clinical skills sets and or equipment. These skills and equipment may be necessary to provide appropriate dental care, however, 'high street' dental practices may be able to deliver all or parts of the care package required by these individuals at a location closer to home. Furthermore, NHS England have published guidance which suggest that a review and redesign of dental service provision for people with learning disabilities could provide an innovative system of care whereby the skills of the whole dental team are utilised.

Study aim: is to explore the perceptions of all stakeholders with regard to the provision of dental care to adults with learning disabilities in North East and North Cumbria. Stakeholders will include: people with learning disabilities (and carers); 'high street' doctors and dentists; dental healthcare professionals in hospital and community dental services; service commissioners and NHS workforce consultants; and supporting partners/voluntary agencies/charities. This research will inform local

service redesign in order to improve the care of these patients in a way that meets their individual needs, reduces barriers to accessing care and utilises the dental workforce efficiently.

Recruitment: we would like to explore a wide range of views and opinions from a diverse sample of representatives. Recruitment will be initiated by the dissemination of this study summary. Primary care GPs will be approached through the North East and North Cumbria Clinical Research Network (NENC CRN) and Local Medical Committees. Primary care based GDPs in NENC will be recruited via chairs of Local Dental Committees, Northern Dental Practice Based Research Network (NDPBRN) and managers of corporate dental bodies. Participants will need to have sufficient English language skills to participate in a virtual (Zoom) workshop discussion. The discussion will follow a topic guide which is available from the researcher by request.

3. Do I have to take part?

No, it is up to you to decide whether you wish to participate in the study or not. We do not want you to feel coerced in any way. We will provide information about the study to help you to make this decision.

4. What will happen to if I agree to take part?

We are arranging a virtual (Zoom) workshop for GDPs and GPs to discuss barriers and facilitators of providing dental services for people with learning disabilities, including contractual arrangements. We will invite approx. 10 participants to attend the virtual (Zoom) workshop. The virtual (Zoom) workshop will last a maximum of 3 hours with refreshment break/s included and will be conducted virtually. A topic guide will be used to steer the discussion. The topic guide will aim to identify barriers and facilitators to accessing dental services and thoughts about a shared system of care, which utilises a highly skilled multidisciplinary dental team. The discussion will be audio-recorded and transcribed following the virtual (Zoom) workshop. Names of individuals will be anonymised and quotations will be included in a final report.

5. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The information we collect will help us to conduct a review of dental service provision for people with learning disabilities, with the potential to inform local service re-design. Taking part in this study will not benefit you directly, but it will provide you with an opportunity to help to improve the dental care provision for this client group.

6. What are the disadvantages or risks of taking part?

The main disadvantage would be giving up the time it would take to attend. We consider the virtual (Zoom) workshop discussion to be low risk, but we will aim to recruit a diverse representation of GDPs and GPs, including those who experience barriers to care for this client group.

7. Will participation in the study be kept confidential?

Whilst we remind all participants that they have a duty of confidentiality, we cannot guarantee that this will be upheld. Furthermore, disclosure of malpractice or risk to individuals will be reported to appropriate authorities.

8. Remuneration and expenses

We can remunerate your time at BDA and BMA guild rates.

9. What will happen in the event that I want to withdraw from the study?

Withdrawal from the study is acceptable at any time without giving a reason up until the start of the virtual (Zoom) workshop or until you have contributed to the discussion.

10. What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of the research will be written up in a final report for the Department of Health and Social Care. We will also present the results at national and international meetings of stakeholders interested in dental services provision and managed clinical networks. We will also publish the results in a health services journal. You will not be identified in any of these reports.

11. What if there is a problem?

Any complaint about the way you have been dealt with during the study or any possible harm you might have suffered will be addressed. If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions (Dr Bissett, telephone 0191 208 8319).

12. Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is funded by a research grant from the Department of Health and Social Care which covers the salary of some of the researchers and the costs of doing the study.

13. Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed by Newcastle University who have agreed to sponsor the study and Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust who are hosting the study. In addition, the study ethics have been reviewed by an independent organisation to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. This study has been reviewed by Camberwell St Giles Research Ethics Committee.

14. How will we use information about you?

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 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 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.

15. What are your choices about how your 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 that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

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

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

www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/ or you can contact a member of the

research team, Dr Susan Bissett:

Telephone: 0191 208 8319

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

Email: nhs.net address: s.bissett@nhs.net

Address: School of Dental Sciences

Room 4.031, Floor 4

Faculty of Medical Sciences

Newcastle University

Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 4HH

Those participating in this study will be given copies of their signed consent form.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information leaflet.