

Online Survey for Primary Care Collaboration leads

Evaluation of large scale collaborations between GP practices

You are invited to complete a short survey, which is being carried out by researchers from the Birmingham, RAND and Cambridge Evaluation (BRACE) Centre funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). This survey forms part of the process of selecting case study sites for a research study that will examine large-scale collaborations across GP practices, in order to inform the development of new Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in England.

We provide background context to the evaluation project, and more specific information on this survey. Please take the time to read this before deciding whether or not to take part in the survey.

What is the purpose of this evaluation?

This project has been designed by the BRACE Rapid Evaluation Team to provide evidence that can inform the implementation and operation of PCNs in the NHS in England. The study will evaluate the nature, functioning, potential and pitfalls of large scale collaborations between GP practices (e.g. federations, networks, super-partnerships). The study has a particular focus on understanding issues for rural as compared with urban collaborations, and on the challenges in creating and sustaining successful collaborations. We are in the process of identifying and recruiting four case study sites.

How would you like me to contribute?

We would like you to take part in a 10-minute survey to help us ascertain whether to select one or more of the GP practice collaboration(s) in your CCG area as a case study. Relevant collaborations include any that have ceased to operate in the last 24 months, as well as those currently active.

Who else is involved?

If your site is selected to be a case study site, we would like to:

- Involve you and other key individuals working within your collaboration to take part in interviews with a member of the research team;
- invite all GPs working within the collaboration to undertake a short online survey; and
- undertake non-participant observation of a small number of meetings of the executive or board of your collaboration.

Do I have to take part?

It is entirely your decision whether to take part in this survey. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to provide consent prior to taking the survey. You can withdraw your participation at any time while answering the survey questions without any penalty to you. You do not have to give a reason for not taking part.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. There are no known risks in completing this survey.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The information gained from the evaluation of case studies will improve policy makers' and decision makers' understanding of the operation (including challenges faced) and the impacts of large scale GP collaborations. The evidence-base will help shape the understanding of the practicalities of implementing and supporting new PCNs, as detailed by NHS England.

Who should I contact if I have a question?

If you have any questions or queries pertaining to any aspect of this evaluation, please contact either the Project Lead, Professor Judith Smith, at the University of Birmingham on [REDACTED] or the Project Manager, Amelia Harshfield, at RAND Europe on [REDACTED]. Any complaints raised during this time will be dealt with in accordance with the University of Birmingham Research Practice Guidelines.

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All information provided in response to this survey will be kept strictly confidential in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 and Data Protection Act (2018). The data will be recorded and stored in accordance with the University of Birmingham and RAND Europe's procedures. Any potential outputs will be aggregated and data anonymised prior to publication. All data from this survey will be destroyed after five years.

Who is organising and funding the research?

BRACE is funded by the National Institute for Health Research's Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) programme (HSDR16/138/31). For more information, please see:

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/social-policy/departments/health-services-management-centre/research/brace/index.aspx>

By ticking the box below "I agree to participate in this survey" and by continuing with the survey you are indicating your agreement with the following:

1. I have read and understand the information about this project.
2. I understand that my participation in this survey is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw my participation at any time without giving a reason.
3. I give permission for my responses to be accessed by researchers in this project.
 - I agree to participate in this survey
 - I do not agree to participate in this survey

Your experiences with large scale GP practice collaborations

The following questions ask about the collaboration you are or have been a member of.

ASK ALL

1. Is your primary care collaboration currently operational?

Please tick the category that applies to you.

- a. Yes
- b. No

If participant has answered Yes, then open up questions 9-15

If participant has answered No, then open up questions 2-8

For those who ticked 'no' in Q1

2. Was your primary care collaboration in operation during the past 24 months?

Please tick the category that applies to you.

- a. Yes
- b. No

If participant has answered No, then go to survey finish

If participant has answered Yes, then they go to Question 3

3. What was the name of your primary care collaboration?

[OPEN TEXT]

4. When was your primary care collaboration established?

[DATE]

5. What term best describes the type of collaboration you were a member of?

Please tick the category that applies to you.

- a. Informal network
- b. Multi-site practice organisation
- c. Super-partnership
- d. Federation
- e. Primary Care Home

- f. Extended access hub
- g. Other, please describe below [OPEN TEXT]

6. How many GP practices were members of your primary care collaboration?

- a. Fewer than 5 practices
- b. 5-10 practices
- c. More than 10 practices
- d. Don't know

7. What was the main purpose behind your collaboration being set up?

[OPEN TEXT]

8. What was the main reason behind your collaboration ceasing to operate?

[OPEN TEXT]

For those who ticked 'yes' in Q1

9. What is the name of your primary care collaboration?

[OPEN TEXT]

10. When was your primary care collaboration established?

[DATE]

11. What term best describes the type of collaboration you are a member of?

Please tick the category that applies to you.

- a. Informal network
- b. Multi-site practice organisation
- c. Super-partnership
- d. Federation
- e. Primary care home
- f. Extended access hub
- g. Other, please describe below [OPEN TEXT]

12. How many GP practices are members of your primary care collaboration?

- e. Fewer than 5 practices
- f. 5-10 practices
- g. More than 10 practices
- h. Don't know

13. What was the main purpose behind your collaboration being set up?

[OPEN TEXT]

14. Is your primary care collaboration transitioning to become a Primary Care Network as defined in the NHS Long Term Plan?

- a. Yes
- b. No

If yes, please tell us what actions you are currently taking to become a primary care network?

[OPEN TEXT]

15. Please use the text box below to share any other relevant information about your collaboration and its current working practices.

[OPEN TEXT]

Thank you for completing the survey.