



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

## How do you feel about the care older people receive in the last few months of life?



Researchers are looking at people's experiences of moving between different places of care towards the end of life.

This study is about the care of people who were over 75 years old and died with stroke, heart failure or lung cancer.

### **Why are we doing this research?**

Older people sometimes move between different health care settings such as hospitals, hospices and their home towards the end of their lives. The NHS National Institute for Health Research has funded a study to understand more about these moves and what they mean for the people involved.

We are exploring the reasons behind any moves, and the experiences of the services received. Were there any consequences, good or bad, for the person involved, or their family?

### **How are we carrying out the study?**

We are using three different methods to find out more about moves between different health care settings.

We are studying the statistics about people moving in and out of hospital and other places.

We have interviewed some patients and are now talking to caregivers, friends and relatives to hear the real stories behind the numbers.

Later in the study, we will take the key messages from caregivers, friends and relatives to health professionals and the people who organise and manage care about their perspectives.



### **Why do we want your help?**

We know that older adults often move between home, hospital, hospice or care home in their last few months of life. What we don't know is whether these moves are in the best interests of the person involved. Do they result in better control of symptoms and quality of life? These are important questions, so we would like to know about your experiences of being close to someone who moved between different places in the last six months before they died. Our interviews will cover why your friend or relative moved from one place to another, and how you all felt about the moves. We are also interested in how the care that your relative or friend received affected you and your family. This may have been emotionally, socially, physically or financially.

If you would like to find out more, or are interested in taking part, please contact [Name] at the University of Liverpool on 0151 \*\*\*\* or at [\[Name\]@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:[Name]@liverpool.ac.uk) (please turn over for postal address).

### **Who is doing the research?**

The project is being led from the University of Liverpool, with collaborating researchers from the Universities of Lancaster, Manchester, Oxford and Southampton. The project team includes internationally recognised researchers with considerable experience in conducting research concerning the end of life.

Interviews with patients, caregivers and health professionals are being carried out in north west England and central southern England.

The research has been funded for three years (2009-2012) by the NHS National Institute for Health Research through its Service Delivery and Organisation Programme.