



ReGROUP Project

Retaining the Experienced GP Workforce in Direct Patient Care

You are invited to take part in a study that is being conducted by the Universities of Exeter and Bristol. Please take time to read the following information carefully before you decide whether or not to take part. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

Purpose of the study- Why do GPs leave the workforce?

The University of Exeter Medical School has been commissioned by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) to investigate the factors contributing to GPs' decisions to leave direct patient care (leading to career breaks or early retirement/retirement before the age of 60). The ReGROUP study aims to explore GPs' decision-making about taking a break from or leaving direct patient care, the impact on general practice organisation and management, and possible ways to facilitate GP retention.

Why have I been asked to take part?

We are inviting GPs and other members of the primary care team to take part in an interview with a member of the research team regarding GP work-life issues.

What will taking part in the study involve?

If you do agree to take part in an interview, this would be conducted by a researcher from the study team. They would ask to talk with you about work-life issues and, for GPs, your decision-making regarding leaving or taking a break from direct patient care. For other members of the primary care team, the interview would explore the impact of GPs' workload and quitting decisions on your own role and others, the impact on practice organisation and management, and any other key issues related to your locality. The interview would be either face-to-face, in a location to suit you, or over the telephone, and would take about 30-60 minutes. We would financially reimburse you for giving your time for the interview, through a monetary voucher given directly to you. Please note that we plan to conduct a small number of interviews and so will only interview a sample of those expressing an interest, i.e. not everyone expressing an interest will be contacted.

What will happen next?

If you would like to take part, please complete and return our reply sheet in the reply-paid envelope provided. You will be contacted by a researcher from the study team who will tell you more about the project and answer any questions you might have. You can then decide whether you wish to be interviewed or not.

Do I have to take part in the study?

You do not have to take part in this study. If you provide your contact details for an interview, this will not commit you to taking part in an interview. It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part in the research. If you decide to take part in the study, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

What are the possible benefits and risks of taking part?

We hope that this project will allow us to develop our understanding about why GPs decide to leave direct patient care and to develop and 'road-test' some policies and strategies that might be expected to encourage GPs to remain in the workforce.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

The information you give to us as part of the study will be entirely confidential, will be handled and stored securely, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, and in accordance with research governance guidelines. No information that could reveal your identity will be disclosed to anyone outside of the research team at the Universities of Exeter and Bristol without your permission. Audio recordings of interviews will be stored with a unique study ID and without name or other identifiable information before being transcribed by an external agency. Study data will be kept securely for 10 years after which electronic data will be permanently deleted from databases and electronic files. Paper-based data will be shredded through confidential waste disposal.

Who else will know I am taking part?

Although Practice Managers and other GPs in the South West of England will be aware of the project being undertaken, no third parties will be told that you are taking part in this study.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of this study will be reported to the NHS funding body, published in peer-reviewed academic journals, and may also be presented at scientific conferences. None of the study participants will be identified in any presentation, report or publications arising from the study. If you are interested in obtaining a summary of the results, or a copy of any publication(s), you will be able to ask the research team to send you a copy when the results are available.

Who is organising the research?

The study is being organised by researchers from the University of Exeter Medical School, and the University of Bristol. The study is being funded by a grant from the NIHR's Health Services & Delivery Research (HS&DR) programme, part of the Department of Health

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Exeter Medical School's Research Ethics Committee (Reference: 15/22/085). It has also been approved by the Research & Development teams from the relevant NHS trusts where the research is being undertaken.

Who do I contact for more information?

If you would like more information or have any questions about the ReGROUP project, please contact the study manager, Emily Fletcher, by telephone ([REDACTED]) or by e-mail ([REDACTED]), or write to her at: University of Exeter Medical School, Smeall Building, St Luke's Campus, Magdalen Road, Exeter, EX1 2LU.

Complaints

If you have any complaints about the way in which this study has been carried out please contact the Co-chairs of the University of Exeter Medical School Research Ethics Committee:-

Ruth Garside, PhD *or* Rob Anderson, PhD

Email : [REDACTED]

Thank you for reading this information sheet