

GP practice letter head

<Patient name>  
<Patient address1>  
<Patient address2>  
<Patient address3>  
<Patient postcode>

Our ref: <admin code>

<Date>

Dear <Patient name>



**Invitation to help us with CASPER research project**

Would you like to help us? Our Practice is supporting research being carried out by the University of York. They have asked us to send details of their study to all patients aged 65 and over who are registered with our Practice. Are you willing to take part?

This research is looking at the physical and mental health of people who are 65 and over. It wants to find out if there is a better way of providing care for people who are feeling down in the dumps, or just fed up with life. In other words, people who are depressed. Is this new way going to be better than the way GPs care for their patients now? We don't know yet, so we hope the results of this research will help us decide the best way to help you – help us help you! We hope that the study results will improve care for people who are finding life difficult.

We are sending you an information leaflet with this letter. It explains York University's research in detail. It tells you about CASPER – what it is and what it does. There are 2 forms: one yellow and one blue. Fill in the yellow consent form if you want to take part. Send it to the research team in the addressed envelope we have sent you. You don't need a stamp. Fill in the blue form and send it back if you don't want to take part. You don't have to – it's up to you. The care you get from your GP won't be affected in any way if you can't help.

If you have any queries, please contact [local study co-ordinator name and institution] on [local phone number]. If there is no answer, leave a message on the answerphone and someone will call you back.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Yours sincerely

[Lead GP signature and name]