Feasibility Study: Pre-Operative Behavioural Intervention to Promote Responsible Drinking before elective orthopaedic Surgery

(PRE-OP BIRDS)

Participant Information Sheet

Health Care Professionals Focus Groups

We would like to invite you to take part in a focus group discussion as part of the PRE-OP BIRDS research study. Before you decide you need to understand why the research is being done and what taking part would mean for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully, and feel free to talk to others about the study, if you wish. Take some time to consider it carefully before you decide.

Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear.

What is the purpose of the study?
Alcohol consumption is known to be associated with increased complications after surgery, which prevent early recovery and prolong rehabilitation times. It is therefore important that we are able to detect increased alcohol intake by patients much better than we currently do.

This study aims to test a revised screening and behavioural intervention which will be used with patients being referred for surgery. The behavioural intervention will help you to provide simple advice and guidance to patients on how reducing alcohol consumption prior to surgery could improve recovery time and reduce the amount of time spent in hospital after an operation.

In order to fully understand if the new intervention is successful we will need to test it against the standard treatment provided to these patients. These focus groups will therefore be used to gather information regarding what is standard practice in local NHS Trusts. The information provided will be used to inform a larger pilot trial that will run straight after this feasibility study and will compare the new intervention against standard practice, as identified during the focus groups.

Why have I been invited to take part in PRE-OP BIRDS?
You have been invited to participate as you currently work within or alongside a Preoperative Assessment Clinic and are involved in the development, organisation or delivery of the elective surgical patient pathway.

Do I have to take part?
You do not have to take part, and it is up to you to decide. If you do agree to take part, you can withdraw without giving a reason.

Once the Focus Group has started you are also free to leave at any point but data collected up to that point will be retained for use in the study.

What will I have to do?
After you have signed the study consent form you will take part in a focus group that will last approximately one hour. The focus group will involve approximately 6-8 staff members per group and will involve a mix of healthcare professionals involved in the orthopaedic surgery patient pathway. This will take place at a time and location convenient for you. The aim of the focus group is to explore current views of preoperative alcohol screening and behavioural intervention in older orthopaedic patients. We also aim to clarify and understand what defines usual practice in preoperative assessment clinics particularly with regard to screening patients for high-risk alcohol consumption.

The focus groups will be audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. This data will then be analysed by a researcher and will assist the research team in defining the comparator or treatment as usual group for the pilot trial.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?
Taking part in the focus group will not benefit you directly but the information we gather from these focus groups will help inform a larger pilot trial and may help patients and Health Care Professionals in the future.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?
All study information, including personal details, will be kept confidential and will not be made public. The study data may be looked at by people who are monitoring or auditing the study, a Research Ethics Committee (REC) or other regulatory authorities, or the hospital Trusts involved in the study, to make sure that the study is being run correctly. By signing the consent form, you are giving your permission for this to happen.

Everyone involved in this study has a duty of confidentiality to the participants and this will be maintained throughout the session. If however, during the course of the focus group any abusive and/or unprofessional behaviours and/or actions are disclosed by staff this will need to be reported to the study Chief Investigator. It will also be reported to their line manager and, if applicable, through the appropriate NHS safeguarding process.

Who is organising and funding the research?
This study is being funded by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme. This body is funded by the UK government to carry out research for the benefit of the NHS and its patients. It is being organised and carried out by a team of researchers based in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Who has reviewed the study?
This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by Newcastle & North Tyneside 2 Research Ethics Committee.

What will happen to the results of this study?
Data from this study will be used to improve the behavioural intervention and the next phase of the research. Data from your focus group may be used, anonymously, in the study report and publications from the research.

Further information and contact details
These are the key contacts for this study. If you have any further questions or would like any further information about the study or the rights of participants, please feel free to contact them.
[insert local details here]