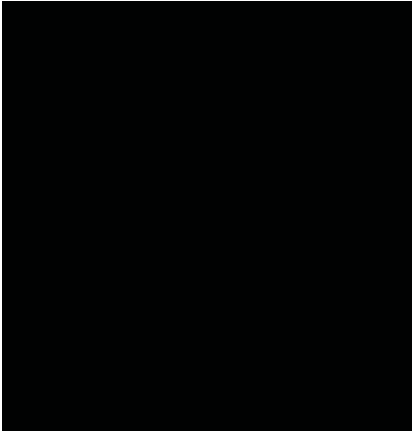


To:

Dr Sarah Price



18 March 2020

Use of cancer diagnostic tools to aid decision-making in primary care

Dear Dr

We are writing to request your participation in our study of use of cancer diagnostic tools in primary care. It involves completing a short, anonymised postal questionnaire. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate we thank you; if not, we thank you for considering our request.

What is the aim of the project?

The main aim of this project is to obtain an estimate of how many GPs in the UK use cancer diagnostic support tools. We also want to gain an understanding of how the tools are used. Finally, we want to compare cancer referral rates of GP practices that report using the tools with referral rates of GP practices that do not. The project is being undertaken by researchers from the University of Exeter Medical School and is funded by NIHR Health Technology Assessment Grant 16/12/04.

Description of participants required

The participants are a representative sample of GPs in the UK. The sample of GPs was provided by Binley's (www.binleys.com), a commercial company that has an up-to-date listing of GPs in the UK and supports the Royal College of General Practitioners in maintaining its database.

What will participants be asked to do?

Should you agree to take part in this study, you will be asked to:

Read this cover letter, explaining the purpose and nature of the questionnaire

Answer 8 questions relating to cancer decision support tools and 2 questions asking you to confirm your number of years in practice and the number of sessions per week worked

Give the completed questionnaire to your practice manager, who will return it to us using a prepaid envelope

Time commitment

The questionnaire is anticipated to take 5–10 minutes to complete.

Payment/reward to volunteers/interviewees

There is no payment to GPs for taking part in this research. We will make a £7.50 donation to a cancer charity for each completed questionnaire, capped at 400 questionnaires.

Can participants change their mind and withdraw from the Project?

You may withdraw from participation in the project at any time without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind. Consent is assumed by your completion and return of the survey.

What data or information will be collected and what use will be made of it?

The responses to the questionnaires will be collected, along with details of the GP software used at your practice (as supplied by Binley's). The data is being collected with the purpose of enabling us to meet the aims of our study as outlined above. The data will be anonymised and collated by Binley's, and then analysed by the principal researcher (Sarah Price). The anonymised analysis will be accessible to the following researchers at University of Exeter:

- Sarah Price (principal researcher)
- Antonieta Medina-Lara (lead investigator, Senior Lecturer in Health Economics)
- Anne Spencer (co-investigator, Associate Professor of Health Economics)

The data collected will be securely stored so that only those mentioned above will be able to gain access to it. The aim is to publish the results of this project under open access, and so freely available to participants in this study. If you wish to receive an electronic copy of the results, please confirm

this by emailing Sarah Price (at S.J.Price@exeter.ac.uk). Any data included will not be individually identifiable.

Why me?

We aim to obtain a representative sample of GPs in the UK for our study, so that we can make inferences about our results to the whole country. You were selected at random from all practising GPs in the UK.

What if participants have any questions?

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact either:

Dr Sarah Price

Dr Antonieta Medina-Lara

Research Fellow

Senior Lecturer



Complaints

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

Ruth Garside, PhD

Chair of the UEMS Research Ethics Committee



Funding acknowledgement

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With grateful thanks,

