

The PRISMATIC study. Predicting people's risk of needing emergency hospital treatment

December 2012

Information sheet version 5

This information sheet is about a study being carried out by Swansea University. It explains:

- why the study is being conducted
- the nature of your contribution
- the benefits/consequences of your participation
- why you have been invited to take part.

If there is anything which is not clear, please ask and we will be happy to discuss it with you. Our contact details are provided overleaf. It is entirely your choice whether or not you take part in the study. If you decide to take part we will ask you to complete a questionnaire which will be sent to you up to three times over the next two years.

If you are willing to help, please sign the enclosed consent form and return this with the completed questionnaire in the envelope provided.

Background

Our population contains increasing numbers of older people and people who have one or more long term conditions. This places greater demands on health and social care services. It is recognised that patients with long term conditions are not always managed and treated effectively. Too many are admitted to hospital as emergencies. Also, community services are not always available or don't work well together.

To help improve services, GPs in Wales are starting to use a scoring system to predict people's risk of having an emergency hospital admission in the coming year. The system will provide GPs with risk scores for all patients in their practice, with scores ranging from 1 to 100 (very low to very high risk).

Why is this study being undertaken?

We don't know how a scoring system which predicts people's risk of needing emergency treatment will be used in Wales – and if it will help patient care. This study aims to find out whether GPs and other health professionals use it and how it affects the way people are cared for.

This information may help improve the way scoring systems are used in the future to benefit patients.

The study has a number of different parts, including discussion groups with health professionals and collecting information about the cost of using the system.

Who is conducting the research?

The research is being undertaken by a team from the College of Medicine, Swansea University. It is funded by the Department of Health.

This information sheet has been sent to you from your GP practice. Your name will not be passed to the researchers unless you consent to take part by completing the enclosed form.

Why have I been asked to take part in this study?

Within the Abertawe Bro Morgannwg NHS Health Board area, patients from GP practices who will receive the scoring system are being contacted. Your practice is taking part in the study, and will receive the scoring system within the next 18 months. Your name has been selected at random from your practice's patient list. The researchers want to find out patients' experience of health and care services over the next two years. This will allow us to see if anything changes once practices start using the scoring system. Patients with long term conditions and those without any diagnosis are being included, so we can gather information about different experiences

What we are asking you to do?

If you choose to take part, you will be sent a questionnaire to complete on up to three different occasions. The first questionnaire is enclosed with this information sheet. Subsequent questionnaires may be sent in 9 and 18 months time. If you need help reading anything or filling in the questionnaire it will be perfectly acceptable for you to get help from a friend, family member or carer.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is your choice whether or not you take part. If you decide to take part you may withdraw at any time without the need to give an explanation.

Who will see the information and results about this study?

The information collected will be securely stored and analysed on computers based at Swansea University. Your name will not be used in the study or disclosed to anyone by the research team. There will be a report and other publications following from this study but they will not identify you personally. Questionnaire data will be stored securely for five years after the study before being destroyed.

As part of the study, Swansea University will link the information from your questionnaires with your routinely collected health data (e.g. information about hospital visits). This will help us recognise any changes in the use of services over time. The University will remove identifiable information to ensure that no one will be able to identify you from the file.

What if there is a problem?

We do not believe there will be any problems arising from your taking part in this study. However, if there is anything you are not happy with, please contact the study team (details below) who will do their best to answer your questions. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, the research team can provide details of the ABMU Health Board complaints procedure.

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Predicting people's risk of needing emergency hospital treatment.

Consent form for people taking part in the study

Please *initial* each box:

I confirm that I have read the information sheet version 5, understand it and have had an opportunity to ask questions. initial

The information sheet has explained why the study is being undertaken and how it is being undertaken. initial

I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I may withdraw at any time without giving reason and this will not affect the future care I receive. initial

I agree to take part in the study and that the research team will send me questionnaires to complete over the next two years initial

.....
Name

.....
Signature

.....
Date

