

Predicting people's risk of needing emergency treatment for a chronic condition: what impact does this have on health and social care services?

Autumn 2012

Information sheet for Professionals

This information sheet is about a study being carried out by the College of Medicine at Swansea University. It explains:

- why the study is being conducted
- the nature/value 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.

It is entirely your choice whether or not you contribute to the study by taking part in a focus group at the beginning of the study and a possible follow-up interview at a later date.

If you are willing to help, please sign the consent form stating that you have voluntarily chosen to do so.

Background

Our population contains increasing numbers of older people and people who have one or more chronic conditions. This places greater demands on health and social care services. It is recognised that patients with chronic 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, some 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. All patients are placed into one of four categories from low to high risk.

Why is this study being undertaken?

This study aims to find out whether GPs and other health professionals use this scoring system, how they use this system and their views about it, and how it affects the way people are cared for. For those professionals associated with GP practices where the system has not yet been implemented, views regarding the potential benefit and usefulness of such a system will be sought and comparisons made with the existing practices for managing patients.

This information will help improve the way the predictive risk system is used in the future to benefit patients.

The study has a number of different parts, including the focus groups and interviews with health professionals. Additional information is being collected from patients

regarding their quality of life, the quality of the care they have received and their frequency of use of services, as well as 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 through the National Institute for Health Research Service, Delivery and Organisation programme.

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

The researchers want to find out professionals' experiences of using a predictive scoring system or their perceived usefulness of using such a system. We would like to gather information at the start of the study before the system is implemented in the ABMU Health Board area and at a later date after people have had experience of using the system. Your name has been selected as you are associated with a practice that has agreed to participate in the study or are involved in supporting or commissioning services for patients.

What we are asking you to do?

You will participate in a focus group with a follow up interview at a later date. The focus group is likely to last no more than an hour and a half.

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?

No-one other than the researchers from the College of Medicine at Swansea University will see the information collected. The data collected will be securely stored and analysed on computers based at the College of Medicine. Your name will not be used in the study or disclosed to anyone by the research team. We would like to record the focus groups and interviews and will use verbatim quotes in reports and journal publications but will not identify any individual contributor.

Who do I contact if I would like more information about the study?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, the researchers will do their best to answer your questions. Please contact Mark Kingston, Research Officer, on 01792 606844 or email prismatic@swansea.ac.uk.





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Consent form for professionals taking part in the study

Please *initial* each box:

I confirm that I have read the information sheet, 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 initial

I agree to take part in the study by participating in a focus group and a follow-up interview initial

.....
Name

.....
Signature

.....
Date

