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**ImproveCare - The management of clinical uncertainty in hospital settings**

# REC no.: 16/LO/2010

# PaRTICIPANT Information SHEET (FOCUS GROUP - CONTROL WARD)

You are being invited to take part in a new research study. Before you decide, it is very important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following very carefully. Please ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Please take your time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Here are some important questions and answers that might help you decide whether you want to join the study:

**What is the purpose of the study AND WHY HAVE I BEEN CHOSEN?**

Listening to health care professionals’ views on the experience of providing care in hospital is very important in order to understand what care works and why, but also to inform us on where we need to make important improvements for future patients, and their families. Our research is specifically focusing on the care of patients who situations of clinically uncertain and where it is likely they will die during their episode of care, despite receiving treatment. We know from previous research and experience that this time often presents many issues for patients and their families that have not been managed well by staff. We want to better understand the complex issues these patients present, how instances of clinical uncertainty are identified, how they managed, and what improvements in training and care are required. We would also like to understand what is it has been like to be involved in this study.

**Why have I been chosen TO TAKE PART?**

You are a health care professional working on wards where the ImproveCare study is taking place.

# Do I have to take part?

**No.** It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part in the study. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

# What do I have to do if I take part?

First, thank you very much for you time. If you do decide to take part you will be asked to sign and date a consent form. You will keep this information sheet and the original consent form.

# What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to take part in a focus group in your place of work. The focus group will be completely anonymous, and will not include any information that can identify you personally. The interview will be digitally-recorded in order for us not to miss anything important you to choose to tell us.

# How long will being in the study take?

Participating in the focus group should take no more than 40 minutes.

**Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

**All** information that is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. Any information we record about you will have your name and address removed so that **you cannot be recognised from it**.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY?**

We hope that the findings from the study will be used to help improve care for people and their relatives. We also hope that the results of this study will be made available to other health care professionals by a series of articles to be published in medical journals. No one person will be identifiable in any of these articles.

**WHO IS ORGANISING AND FUNDING THE RESEARCH**

Dr Jonathan Koffman is the Chief Investigator and the study is funded by the National Institute of Health Research. The study is organised and sponsored by King’s College London and King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

**WHO HAS REVIEWED THIS STUDY?**

All research in the NHS is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by

London Camden & King’s Cross Research Ethics Committee. It has also been approved by the Health Research Authority and each local hospital will also give confirmation that the study can go ahead.

**WHAT DO I DO IF I WISH TO MAKE A COMPLAINT ABOUT THE RESEARCH?**

If you wish to complain about any aspect of the research, you should contact the Chief Investigator in the first instance, Dr Jonathan Koffman.

If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through the NHS Complaints procedure by contacting your local Patient Advice Liaison Service (PALS) office.

Every care will be taken in the course of this study. However in the unlikely event that taking part injures you, compensation may be available.

In the event that something does go wrong and you are harmed during the research and this is due to someone's negligence then you may have grounds for a legal action for compensation against King’s College London but you may have to pay your legal costs.

Regardless of this, if you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated by members of staff or about any problems you may have experienced due to your participation in the study the normal National Health Service complaints mechanisms are available to you.

**Thank you very much for taking the time to read this sheet.**

Chief Investigator

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| **Dr Jonathan Koffman** |  |
| **Telephone: 020 7848 5590** |  |
| **Email:** [**jonathan.koffman@kcl.ac.uk**](mailto:jonathan.koffman@kcl.ac.uk) |  |