**Participant Information Sheet (WS2: HEA)**

**Title of Project**

Can Hygiene-Therapists maintain the oral health of routine low-risk dental recall patients in high-street dental practices.

**Background**

From 2013, the General Dental Council has allowed Hygiene-Therapists to play a more active role in high-street dental practices, including the ability to undertake examinations and provide treatment plans. As a result, Bangor University has been commissioned by the largest national funder in the United Kingdom for applied health research, to conduct a pilot study to determine if hygiene-therapists can maintain the oral health of routine low-risk dental patients in high-street dental practices.

**What do I need to do?**

As a patient who has been identified by your practice as being at low-risk of future dental disease, we invite you to take part in the study. If you are happy to participate, we’d ask you to take part in a focus group. The focus group will be based at your local dental practice and will last for an hour. The focus groups will be composed of between eight to ten people and will explore patients’ preferences about being seen by Hygiene-Therapists compared to being seen by your dentist. It will explore issues like acceptability and treatment charges. You will be encouraged to discuss your views and suggest any other concerns you may have.

**Confidentiality**

Although you are known to your practice, your data will be anonymised, so that nobody in the research team will be able to identify you. Confidentiality will be

maintained at all times. Interviews will be audio-recorded. Only the research team will have access to these recordings and the information will be held on a secure

computer at Newcastle and Bangor University. This will be held for five years and then destroyed, which is standard practice.

**Benefits for me**

You will receive a £10 voucher from the study team for participating in the study.

**Withdrawal**

You can withdraw from the study at any time without affecting your dental care or legal rights, but data collected up to your point of withdrawal may be used.

**Who is organising and funding this study?**

This study is being conducted by researchers at Bangor University and funded by the National Institute of Health Research’s Health Services and Delivery Research programme. This is a national funder who fully support the study.

**What will happen to the results of this study?**

The results will be used to plan for a full-scale randomised controlled trial. Anonymised information collected as part of this study may also be used for other future studies.

**Who has reviewed this study?**

All research undertaken in the NHS is scrutinised by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee. This is to ensure that your interests are protected and the study is conducted according to the highest ethical standards. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the Nottingham 1 Research Ethics Committee.

In accordance with standard practice, the insurance arrangements for the study are provided by the Sponsor, who is Professor Chris Burton, Head of the School of Healthcare Sciences at Bangor University (01248) 382556.

**Complaints**

If you have a concern about any aspect of the study, you should ask to speak to Professor Paul Brocklehurst, who will answer your questions (using the contact details that are provided above). If you remain unhappy and wish to make a formal complaint, you can do this by contacting Professor Chris Burton, Head of the School of Healthcare Sciences at Bangor University (01248) 382556 [c.burton@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:c.burton@bangor.ac.uk) .

Help is also available from the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). This can be found on the NHS Choices website (<http://www.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx>).

**Further information and contact details**

Specific information about this research study can be obtained from Professor Paul Brocklehurst (contact details are at the top of the page).