HAUNERRS Information Sheet

Hospital Admission for people who are Underserved, No fixed abode and Early/iRRegular discharge Study: A Pilot Randomised Control Trial

We are inviting you to take part in a research study. We are speaking to people who have recently left hospital or the Emergency Department early, or who did not go to hospital after an ambulance was called, and who may need support with health, housing, benefits, or other issues.

This sheet explains why we are doing the study and what taking part would mean for you.

If anything is unclear, please say.

Do I have to take part?

No. Taking part is completely up to you.

If you decide not to, or if you join and later change your mind, this will **not** affect your access to support from Simon Community Scotland, Cyrenians, the NHS, or any other service.

If you want to take part, we will ask for your consent first.

What is the study about?

HAUNERRS stands for Hospital Admission for people who are Underserved, No fixed Abode and Early/iRRegular discharge study. It will involve an outreach support worker for people experiencing homelessness who leave hospital or A&E early or have recently refused an ambulance. It will provide practical support to link people in with healthcare, housing, and other support.

This is a **pilot study**. That means we are testing whether this type of support and this type of research study are possible and acceptable.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited because you may meet the study criteria. This includes being aged 18 or over, experiencing homelessness, and having recently left hospital or emergency care before treatment was completed or refused ambulance transfer.

What will happen if I decide to take part?

If you do decide to take part, please keep this Information Sheet. You will be asked to sign an Informed Consent Form to show that you understand your rights in relation to the research, and that you are happy to participate.

We will ask you some questions at the first study meeting and again about 6 months later.

The questions will include things like:

- your health
- your housing situation
- quality of life and confidence in managing your health

You can choose not to answer any question. You can take a break, pause, or stop at any time.

With your permission, we may also invite some participants to take part in a separate interview about their experience of the study. This is optional.

How is it decided who gets the extra support?

If you take part, you will be put into one of two groups **by chance**. This is called **randomisation**.

This means:

- one group will receive **usual care**
- the other group will receive **usual care plus the HAUNERRS worker**

Nobody chooses which group you are in.

What is usual care?

Usual care means the support you would normally receive from services such as homelessness organisations, outreach teams, health services, or other support providers.

What is the HAUNERRS worker?

If you are allocated to the HAUNERRS group, you will be offered support from a worker at Simon Community Scotland for up to 6 months.

They may meet with you around once a week, depending on what you want and need.

They can support you with:

- getting healthcare
- housing
- benefits
- connecting with activities or groups, if you want to

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You may or may not benefit directly. If you are allocated to the HAUNERRS group, the extra support may help with health or social needs.

If you are allocated to usual care only, you may not benefit directly, but the information you provide may help improve services for other people in future.

Are there any risks in taking part?

Taking part in the study will require some of your time. You will be asked to complete a baseline visit and a follow-up visit around 6 months later. Each of these will take around 30 to 45 minutes.

You may also be invited to take part in one or two additional interviews near the start and end of the study. Each interview will also take around 30 to 45 minutes.

Some of the questions may feel personal or upsetting. For example, we may ask about your health, hospital experiences, or difficult life events. You do not have to answer any question you do not want to answer, and we can pause or stop at any time. If you would like, we can also help you find support.

Everything you tell us will be kept confidential unless we are concerned about your safety or someone else's safety, we may need to share information with appropriate services to keep people safe.

What if there are any problems?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study please contact Christian Newman christian.newman@ed.ac.uk 07515 596642 and he will do his best to answer your questions.

In the unlikely event that something goes wrong, and you are harmed during the research, then you may have grounds for a legal action for compensation against The University of Edinburgh, but you may have to pay your legal costs.

Will I be paid for taking part?

Yes. To thank you for your time, you will receive £20 after completing the first study meeting and then again at the 6-month follow-up meeting.

Will my information be kept confidential?

Yes. We will handle your information confidentially and in line with data protection law.

How will we use information about you?

We will need to use information from you for this research project.

This information will include:

- your name (for the consent form)
- your contact details (to contact you for follow-up)

- your age
- your gender
- your ethnicity
- your answers to study questions
- information about which study group you were allocated to

The researchers on this study will use this information to do the research. With your permission, we will combine it with information about you from Simon Community. We will not combine your information with any health data from hospital or GP.

You will be given a **study ID number** so that your name and contact details can be stored separately from your research information. All information will be stored securely with restricted access.

We will only share identifiable information if we are worried there is a serious and immediate risk to your safety or someone else's safety.

We will remove names and other identifying details before reporting the results.

We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

Baseline and follow-up will not be audio-recorded, but we will ask if we can record the separate, additional interviews about your experiences of the study. If you consent to being audio recorded, all recordings will be destroyed once they have been transcribed. Your data will only be viewed by the researcher/research team. We may use the University of Edinburgh Electronic Transcription and Translation of Audio service (ETTA) to transcribe the qualitative interviews. The ETTA complies with all GDPR regulations and policies for the secure and sensitive handling of sensitive information. All electronic data will be stored on a password-protected computer file and all paper records will be stored in a locked filing cabinet. Your consent information will be kept separately from your responses in order to minimise risk.

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

How long will my information be kept?

Identifiable information will be kept only for as long as needed for the study and follow-up. Anonymised research data will be stored securely for at least 3 years after the end of the project.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

- You can stop taking part at any time without, giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.
- If you withdraw, no new information will be collected from you. Information that has already been anonymised or included in analysis may not be possible to remove.
- We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

The University of Edinburgh is the data controller for this study. This means it is responsible for looking after your information.

For further information about data privacy for research participants please refer to: https://data-protection.ed.ac.uk/privacy-notice-research

- our leaflet available from the Edinburgh Support Hub, 22 Holyrood Road
- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to Christian.newman@ed.ac.uk, or
- you can contact the University of Edinburgh Data Protection Officer at: dpo@ed.ac.uk

What will happen with the results of this study?

This research will form part of Christian Newman's PhD thesis at the University of Edinburgh. The results of this study may also be summarised in published articles, reports and presentations. You will not be identifiable from any published results. Quotes or key findings will always be made anonymous in any formal outputs unless we have your prior and explicit written permission to attribute them to you by name. With your consent, your anonymised information may also be kept for future research. We will provide you with a summary of the findings when the study finishes.

Who is organising the study?

The study is being organised by researchers at the University of Edinburgh.

The University of Edinburgh is the sponsor of the study.

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been reviewed by the School of Health in Social Science Research Ethics Committee.

Who can I contact for more information?

If you have any questions about the study, please contact:

Christian Newman
Email: christian.newman@ed.ac.uk
Phone: 07515 596642

If you want to speak to someone independent, please contact: Cat Tottie
cat.tottie@ed.ac.uk

What if I want to complain?

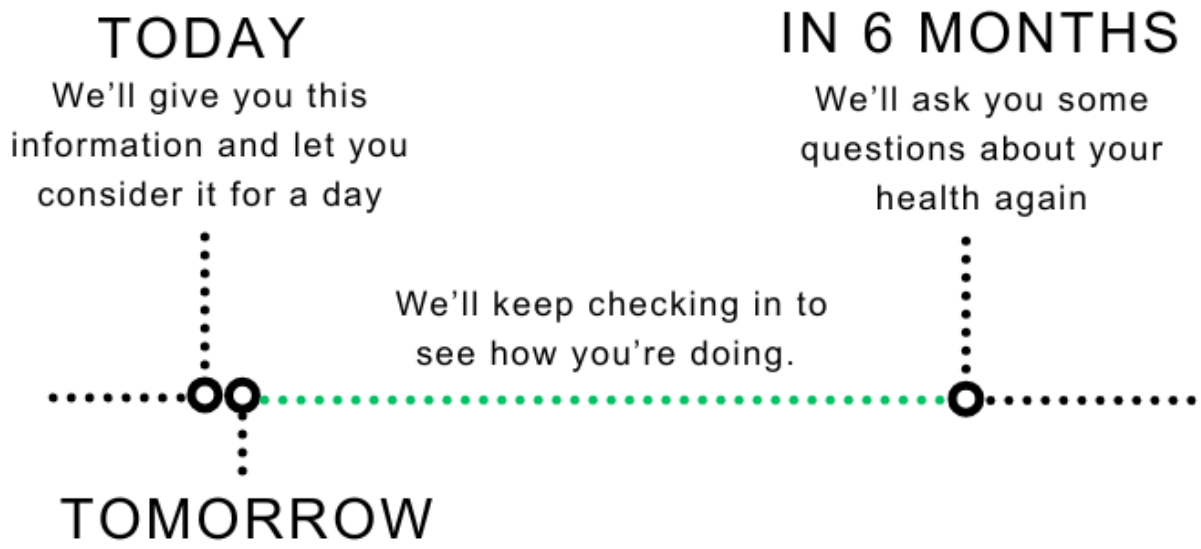
If you have a complaint about the study, you can contact:

Professor Matthias Schwannauer
Head of School, School of Health in Social Science
Email: headofschool.health@ed.ac.uk
or
Research Governance Co-ordinator, University of Edinburgh (CAHSS)
Email: cahss.res.ethics@ed.ac.uk

What if I lose this sheet?

You can ask the researcher or a member of staff for another copy, or contact Christian Newman and we will arrange to give you one.

HAUNERRS Timeline



If you consent to take part, then we'll ask you some questions about your health and reasons for leaving hospital. Then you will be put into one of two groups by chance. One is usual care, the other group is usual care plus an extra outreach worker.