INSPIRE-VIR
Identifying Needs and Setting Priorities In REsearch for Vascular Interventional Radiology

Participant Information Sheet

Study Title: Identifying Needs and Setting Priorities In Research for Vascular Interventional Radiology (The INSPIRE- VIR Study)

PIS Version: Version 1.0, 14/10/25 (Draft Pending Ethical Approval—Subject to Change)

Background and study aims

Vascular Interventional Radiology (VIR) provides minimally invasive alternatives to open surgery. Each year, more than 280,000 interventional radiology procedures are carried out in the UK. Despite this, there is no coordinated national research strategy for VIR.

The INSPIRE-VIR study aims to bring together healthcare professionals, patients, carers, and other stakeholders to identify and agree the most important unanswered research questions in VIR. The study will also assess how feasible these top research priorities are to carry out in practice.

Who can participate?

We are inviting people from the following groups:

- UK-based interventional radiologists (consultants and trainees with at least 3 years' experience)
- UK-based interventional radiology nurses and allied health professionals with at least 3 years' experience
- Patients and carers with significant experience of VIR procedures

You cannot take part if you are in any of the following groups:

- (a) Not practising or living in the UK
- (b) Not directly involved in VIR practice (for professional participants)

What does INSPIRE-VIR involve?

INSPIRE-VIR has two parts. The first part is a Delphi survey – an online questionnaire completed over three rounds (each open for three weeks). You will be asked to suggest, rate, and re-rate research priorities in VIR.

All participants will take part in this stage. Surveys are anonymous, and reminder emails will be sent weekly.

The second part is a Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) workshop – a group session where the top twenty research questions are assessed for urgency, feasibility, impact, and patient-centredness.

Only the smaller "core group" of about 15 participants (including professionals and patients/carers) will take part in this workshop.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

By taking part, you will contribute to shaping the future research agenda in VIR. This may improve care, highlight gaps in knowledge, and ensure that research reflects real-world needs. Patients and carers will bring valuable lived experience, ensuring that research questions reflect what matters most to them.

There are no direct risks to taking part. The main inconvenience may be the time commitment of completing surveys or attending the workshop.

Where is the study run from?

INSPIRE-VIR is coordinated by the University of Plymouth, UK. The study is funded by a research grant from the British Society of Interventional Radiology (BSIR).

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for?

The Delphi surveys will run over approximately four months. The final MCDA workshop will take place shortly after. The whole study is expected to be completed within about one year.

How will my data be protected?

All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential. The Delphi survey is designed so that your responses remain anonymous to other participants.

Data will be stored securely on password-protected university systems and only the research team will have access. No names or contact details will appear in reports, publications, or presentations. When we provide feedback between rounds, results will be presented in summary form only (for example, group averages), and no individual responses will be identifiable.

All data will be handled in line with UK data protection law (UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018), retained for the required period under University of Plymouth policy, and then securely destroyed.

Who is funding the study?

The study is funded by the British Society for Interventional Radiology (BSIR).

Who is the main contact?

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact: Dr Blair Graham (blair.graham@plymouth.ac.uk)

If you would like to make a complaint, you may contact Mo Bottomley, Research Ethics Administrator for the Faculty of Health. (research.ethics@plymouth.ac.uk)