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## Carboprost vs Oxytocin as the First Line Treatment of Primary Postpartum Haemorrhage. A phase IV, double-blind, double-dummy, randomised controlled trial.

### Postnatal (emergency pathway) Patient Information Sheet and Consent Form

Version 9.0: 05-03-2024

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### Contacts

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Telephone: <Number>

Study Website: [www.apestudy.uk](http://www.apestudy.uk)

### Information about the study

Excessive bleeding after childbirth (also known as postpartum haemorrhage or PPH) is a common problem which affects 1 in 20 women.

COPE is a research study to compare two drugs currently used to treat PPH, to decide which is better. The two drugs are **carboprost** and **oxytocin**.

Before you decide if you want to give your permission for your information to be used in this study, it is important for you to understand why the study is being done and what is involved.

Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with friends or relatives if you wish. Taking part is voluntary. If you don't want to take part then you don't need to give a reason.

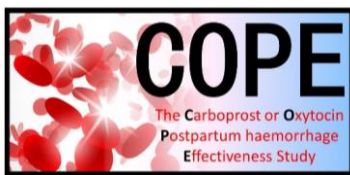
Your decision will not affect how the doctors and nurses will look after you.

Please ask a member of your clinical team if there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information.

### Important things that you need to know

PPH is a medical emergency and needs to be treated without delay; it is important to prevent excessive bleeding as quickly as possible. After you had given birth, you experienced a PPH. As this is a medical emergency, the priority is to treat the PPH and there is not time to properly discuss whether you would like to take part in COPE before giving treatment for PPH.

The ethics committee and medicines regulator have approved that women can be treated as part of the COPE research study and then approached after the medical emergency has passed to see if you are happy for us to collect some information for the research study.



**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. We hope you will find this information helpful.**

## **Why am I being asked after I was given the medicine rather than before?**

After you had given birth, you experienced a PPH.

PPH is a medical emergency and needed to be treated without delay; it was important to prevent excessive bleeding as quickly as possible. As there wasn't time to properly discuss the COPE research study we have approval from the ethical committee and medicines regulator to treat women as part of the COPE research study and then to ask for consent afterwards. This is research without prior consent (sometimes called deferred consent).

As part of the COPE study, when you experienced a PPH you were given two injections – one into the muscle and one into the vein. You were given either carboprost and placebo or oxytocin and placebo. A placebo is a salt solution containing no active drug – acting as a “dummy drug”. Carboprost is injected into the muscle and oxytocin injected into the vein, therefore including a placebo as well as carboprost or oxytocin, in this way, means that neither you nor your doctor know what treatment you were given. This ensures a fair test. In either case, you will have received an “active drug” and a “dummy drug”. In the event that bleeding persisted following study treatment, you will have received further treatment in line with usual NHS care. Further treatment could have included a number of drugs other than the study drugs or either of the study drugs if needed. There were also a variety of procedures available if they were needed. Your doctor could have quickly found out what study treatment you had received if they needed to know for your ongoing care.

We have therefore come to talk to you about the study as soon as possible after the medical emergency to ask

for your permission to use information we have collected about your hospital stay.

## **Why are we doing the COPE study?**

It is important to stop excessive bleeding after birth (PPH) as quickly as possible, as the blood loss can leave women feeling extremely weak and tired. They can then find it hard to care for their newborn baby. This hospital is one of about 30 hospitals in the UK involved in the COPE Study. About 2000 women will take part. We want to know if it is better to use carboprost or oxytocin as the first drug for treatment if a woman has a PPH.

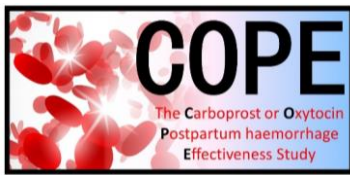
The results from COPE will help doctors know which treatment is better for women with PPH.

## **What happens if I agree that you can use my information?**

A member of the clinical team will talk to you in detail and you will be able to ask any questions that you have. If you have had all of your questions answered and are happy for your information to be collected then you will be asked to sign a consent form prior to discharge to confirm this. You will be given a copy of the consent form and the information sheet to keep.

In the event that you are discharged from hospital prior to having the opportunity to discuss the study with the clinical team, the clinical team will contact you via telephone or letter to carry out this process. If you wish to provide your consent at home you will be given the opportunity to do this via electronic consent or postal consent. If providing consent electronically, your email address will be shared with LCTC for the purposes of obtaining electronic consent. You will get an email explaining that there is a consent form ready for you to sign electronically, and there will be full instructions of how to do so. This process will be as simple as possible.

If you provide your consent, we will collect some information about your health and we will ask you some questions about your experience in the study, your experience of childbirth and your general well-being. These questions will be asked at the time that you provide



your consent and then again at four weeks after the birth. We will contact you via telephone, email or letter to complete these follow-up activities.

### Do I have to take part?

No. Taking part is voluntary. If you choose to take part you can also choose to stop at any time without giving a reason. The standard of care you receive now and, in the future, will be the same whether you take part or not.

If at any point you decide to stop taking part in the study, you will receive the care usually offered by your hospital following PPH.

We will use any study information collected up until the time you stop taking part; this information will be pseudo-anonymised, meaning that identifying details, (e.g. your name) will only be accessed by people working on the study.

### How was it decided which medicine I received?

In research studies we often split people up into groups to look at how different treatments work. People in one group get a different treatment than patients in another group. In the COPE study there are two treatment groups:

**Group A:** Women will receive oxytocin and placebo

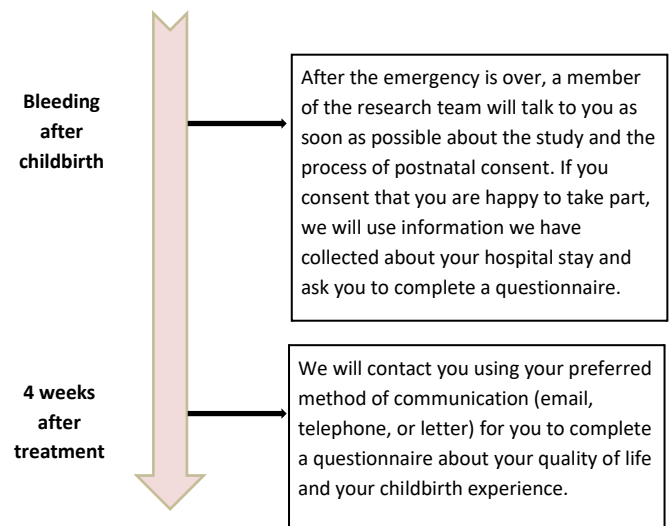
**Group B:** Women will receive carboprost and placebo

It is really important that each group in the COPE study has a similar mix of patients in it so we know that if one group of patients does better than the other it is because of the treatment and not because there are differences in the types of women in each group.

We use a computer programme that puts women 'at random' into one of the groups – you might hear this described as 'randomisation' or 'random allocation', but they all mean the same thing. So, neither you nor your doctor chose your treatment. In the COPE study, you are equally as likely to be in the group receiving oxytocin as you are in the group receiving carboprost.

COPE is a 'blinded study' which means neither you nor your doctor will know what your treatment is. In the event of an emergency, the name of your treatment can be found out quickly.

### Timeline of activities



### What are the alternatives for treatment?

If you were not treated as part of COPE, you would have usually been given oxytocin first and then carboprost if the bleeding continued. Both are common treatments for PPH, but we do not know which is better.

### What are the benefits and risks of taking part?

The results from the study will help doctors know what treatment is best to use first for PPH in the future.

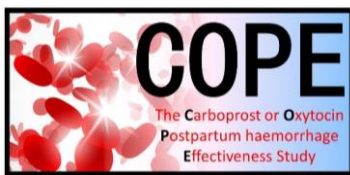
The common side effects of both treatments are as follows:

#### Oxytocin

Headache  
Nausea (feeling sick)  
Vomiting  
Low blood pressure  
Water Retention

#### Carboprost

Diarrhoea  
Vomiting  
High temperature  
Increased blood pressure



## Will my participation be kept confidential?

Yes. We will follow strict ethical and legal practice so that all information collected about you during the study is kept strictly confidential. With your permission, we will send a letter to your GP to let them know you are taking part and use your NHS number to access anonymised data about your hospital admissions.

Any information with your name on it (such as the consent form) that has to be transferred to the coordinating centre in Liverpool, will be sent securely and only accessed by people working on the study or working to ensure the study is being run correctly.

When you agree to take part in a research study, the information about your health and care may be provided to researchers running other research studies in this organisation and in other organisations. These organisations may be universities, NHS organisations or companies involved in health and care research in this country or abroad. Your information will only be used by organisations and researchers to conduct research in accordance with the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research.

This information will not identify you and will not be combined with other information in a way that could identify you. The information will only be used for the purpose of health and care research, and cannot be used to contact you or to affect your care. It will not be used to make decisions about future services available to you, such as insurance.

## What if there is a problem?

If you have any concerns about this study, you should ask to speak with one of your research team who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through the NHS Complaints Procedure. Details can be obtained from your treating hospital.

Every care will be taken in the course of this research study. However, in the unlikely event that you are injured as a result of the managing organisation (University of Liverpool), compensation may be available, however, you may have to pay your own legal costs. Your treating hospital has a duty of care to you whether or not you agree to participate in the trial and the University of Liverpool accepts no liability for negligence on the part of your hospital's employees. If you are harmed and this is due to someone's negligence, then you may have grounds for a legal action for compensation against the NHS Trust where you are being treated, but you may have to pay for your legal costs in connection with this matter.

## What will happen to the results of the study?

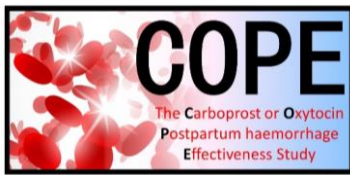
Our results will guide clinical practice for PPH. We plan to present the results of the study at conferences and publish them in medical journals so that we can explain to the medical community what our research results have shown. Confidentiality will be ensured at all times and you will not be identified in any publication.

## What are my electronic hospitalisation records?

The NHS organisations routinely collect information about your inpatient, outpatient and any Accident & Emergency hospital care. In England and Wales the data are referred to as 'Hospital Episode Statistics' or HES data, whilst in Scotland the data are referred to as 'Scottish Morbidity Records' or SMR data; these are regarded as a special category of information.

The study team will retrieve information from your electronic hospitalisation records held by NHS Digital (<https://digital.nhs.uk>) for patients in England; NHS Wales Informatics Service Information Services (<http://www.infoandstats.wales.nhs.uk/>) for patients in Wales; and the electronic Data Research and Innovation Service (<http://www.isdscotland.org/Products-and-Services/EDRIS/>) for patients in Scotland.





Researchers at Bangor University, who are part of the COPE study, want to use your HES and SMR data to calculate the overall costs of care. These data will be collected for the period from three months prior to the start of the study and for the duration of the study. To retrieve your HES or SMR records, information to identify you including your name, date of birth, NHS Number (or CHI Number in Scotland) and COPE Study Number, will be securely transferred by the COPE research team in the University of Liverpool to each of the organisations listed above who hold your electronic hospitalisation records. Towards the end of the study, they will in turn, securely transfer your pseudo-anonymised HES or SMR records to Bangor University using an encrypted electronic transfer system. The data is referred to as 'pseudo-anonymised' data because whilst all your identifying details (name, date of birth, postcode, NHS (or CHI) Number) will have been removed, there is still a unique COPE Study Number present in the data.

Your electronic HES and SMR records will be stored on secure Bangor University computer servers which meet NHS data security standards.

### Who is running the study?

The University of Liverpool is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. The University is responsible for managing this study whilst the University's Liverpool Clinical Trials Centre (LCTC) runs it on a day-to-day basis. This study is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)'s Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme.

The study has been reviewed by the funder and has been approved by the Health Research Authority, National Research Ethics Service Committee (Coventry and Warwickshire Research Ethics Committee) and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

The University of Liverpool and Bangor University will be using information from you and your medical records in order to undertake this study. They will act as joint data controllers - this means that both organisations are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Liverpool will keep

identifiable information about you for 25 years after the study has finished.

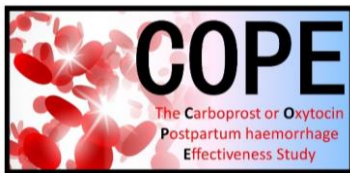
Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information at [www.apestudy.uk](http://www.apestudy.uk)

Your NHS hospital will collect information from you and your medical records for this research study in accordance with our instructions.

Your NHS hospital will use your name, NHS number and contact details to contact you about the research study, and make sure that relevant information about the study is recorded for your care, and to oversee the quality of the study. Individuals from the University of Liverpool and regulatory organisations may look at your medical and research records to check the accuracy of the research study. Your NHS hospital will pass these details to the University of Liverpool along with the information collected from you and your medical records. The only people in the University of Liverpool who will have access to information that identifies you will be people who need to contact you to in relation to the study or audit the data collection process. The people who analyse the information will not be able to identify you and will not be able to find out your name, NHS number or contact details.

Your NHS hospital will keep identifiable information about you from this study for 25 years after the study has finished.



Thank you for reading this information sheet

### Contacts for further information

If you would like more information or have any questions about the COPE study please talk to:

Principal investigator:	<PI Name>
Research Midwife:	<RM Name>
Telephone:	<Number>
Or visit study website:	<a href="http://www.apestudy.uk">www.apestudy.uk</a>

*If you wish to discuss the study with someone independent of the research team you can contact the local NHS Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on: <telephone number>*

FUNDED BY

**NIHR** | National Institute  
for Health Research

## Consent Form

To be completed by the Researcher:															
Site Name:															
Randomisation Number		-													
Participant Initials:				Participant DOB:					/			/			
NHS / CHI Number															
Postcode															

To be completed by the participant:	
Once you have read and understood each statement please enter your initials in each box.	Initial
Example: I confirm that I have read and understand the Participant Information Sheet.	JS
1. I have read and understood the information sheet for this study. I have had the opportunity to ask questions and have had these answered satisfactorily.	
2. I understand that I have already received the study treatment for PPH.	
3. I understand that participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason, and without my care or legal rights being affected. However, the study team may need to collect some limited information for safety reasons.	
4. I give permission for a copy of this fully completed consent form to be sent to the Liverpool Clinical Trials Centre (LCTC), part of the University of Liverpool, where it will be kept in a secure location, to allow confirmation that my consent was given. If I provide consent electronically, I give permission for my email address to be shared with LCTC for the purposes of obtaining electronic consent and for completion of electronic questionnaires, only.	
5. I understand that relevant sections of my medical notes and any data collected during the study may be looked at by authorised individuals from the central study team and representatives of the Sponsor, regulatory authorities and the local NHS Trust. I give permission for these individuals to have access to my records and data.	
6. I understand that my data will be retained for 25 years after the study has finished by the site and by the LCTC, part of the University of Liverpool, and that they will be stored in a confidential manner.	
7. I agree to my GP being informed of my participation in the study.	
8. I understand that the data collected for this study may be used in a pseudo-anonymised form for related research.	
9. I agree for my name, date of birth, postcode, NHS (or CHI) Number, COPE Study Number and a copy of this consent form to be shared with NHS Digital or their UK devolved equivalent so they can link this information to Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), or Scottish Morbidity Records (SMR) containing my details and provide members of the COPE study team working on the trial with HES and SMR data regarding my hospital attendances.	
10. I agree to take part in the above study.	
My preferred method of communication for follow-up is (please tick as appropriate): Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone <input type="checkbox"/> Letter <input type="checkbox"/>	

## Consent Form

To be completed by the Researcher:											
Site Name:											
Randomisation Number		-									
Participant Initials:				Participant DOB:			/			/	
NHS / CHI Number											
Postcode											

**Additional statements** – (You can still take part in the COPE study even if you do not wish to agree to the below).

To be completed by the participant:					
Once you have read and understood each statement please enter your initials in each box.	Initial				
Example: I confirm that I have read and understand the Participant Information Sheet.	JS				
1. I agree that I may be contacted in the future in relation to this or other related studies (if you agree to this statement please provide contact details below).					
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To be completed by you (the participant):					
Your full name (please print):					
Your signature:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Date:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(DD/MM/YYYY)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Date:		(DD/MM/YYYY)	
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(DD/MM/YYYY)					

To be completed by the Researcher once patient has completed their section:					
Researcher full name (please print):					
Researcher signature:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Date:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>(DD/MM/YYYY)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Date:		(DD/MM/YYYY)	
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