

## **DEnTal Examination deTeCtion of Atrial Fibrillation (DETECT-AF)**

You are invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to take part it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part.

### What is the purpose of the study?

The aim of the study is to test if dental clinics are a cost effective and suitable setting to identify previously undetected abnormal atrial fibrillation (AF) in adults aged 65 years and older. Additionally, this study aims to determine if there is a correlation between the severity of dental disease and AF incidence and whether dental clinics offer a pathway to ensure that patients are appropriately managed following detection of AF.

### Why have I been asked to take part?

We are interested in exploring factors that might influence sustainability of AF screening processes beyond the Newcastle Dental Hospital study setting. You have been asked to take part because you are a staff member of the Newcastle Dental Hospital, or a general practitioner involved in the care of participants of the DETECT-AF study conducted at the Newcastle Dental Hospital.

### Do I have to take part?

No, it is up to you to decide whether to take part. Your decision will not affect your role as a dental hospital staff member or as a general practitioner. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to complete an online consent form ([insert link](#)).

### What will happen if I take part?

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to take part in a telephone interview. The telephone interview will be arranged at a convenient time for you. During the telephone interview you will be asked to share your views about the barriers and enablers to the screening processes in the AF detection programme and the effects it has had on the reported practice of the healthcare professionals involved with the participant. The telephone interview will be led by a researcher from Edinburgh Napier University and all discussions will be audio recorded on an Edinburgh Napier University encrypted audio device. The researcher will also make notes during the telephone interview. The discussion will take approximately 30-40 minutes. After the telephone interview, the audio file will be transcribed by a company called 1<sup>st</sup> Class Secretarial Services <https://www.1stclass.uk.com> to create a typed document (transcript) of what is said. Once the transcript has been checked for accuracy, the audio will be destroyed.



What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You may not get direct benefit from taking part in the study. However, the results will inform the study researchers if it is possible to identify and treat people aged 65 years and older with undiagnosed atrial fibrillation in a dental clinic setting. Additionally, the findings will inform the design and refinement of a future intervention for large-scale research and AF screening implementation.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We do not think that there are any possible disadvantages to taking part, apart from giving up 30-40 minutes of your time to take part in a telephone interview.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

All information will be kept strictly confidential as per the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018. Your name will be removed from the data and replaced with a code number so that you cannot be recognised from it. Only the research team will know which participant has been allocated which unique code.

All personal information like your name and telephone number will be stored separately to interview data securely on Edinburgh Napier University computers, which are password protected and compliant with data protection protocols. The recorded interview and transcription will be pseudonymised to further protect your privacy.

The recorded interview will be securely shared with a third party, private company called 1st Class Secretarial Services who specialise in interview transcription and are compliant with all data protection laws. This company will not have access to any of your personal data, will not know who you are, and will not be able to contact you.

The data may also be shared with other researchers who want to explore the subject area, but this will be anonymised, and you will not be identifiable from it.

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 and contact details (telephone number). People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly. People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead. We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

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.



What are your choices about how your information is used?

You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. 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?

You can find out more about how we use your information at [www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/) our leaflet available from <http://www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch> by asking one of the research team by sending an email to [dataprotection@napier.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@napier.ac.uk), or by ringing us on **0131 4553392**.

What happens when the study is finished?

At the end of the research the data you have provided will be stored securely by Edinburgh Napier University. These anonymised data may be made available to other researchers for further analysis once the results of the research have been published. This would only be after an official request, consideration of suitability for sharing, and subject to a data sharing agreement between Edinburgh Napier University and the researcher requesting the data. The data will be stored for at least 10 years.

What will happen to the results of the study?

Quotes from the data you have provided may be used in publications. The results of the study may be written up and published in healthcare journals and presented at conferences. You will not be identifiable in any publication.

Who is organising the research and why?

The principal investigator organising the study is Professor Lis Neubeck, a Professor of Nursing at Edinburgh Napier University. Lis has a special interest in atrial fibrillation.

Who has reviewed the study?

The study proposal has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by NHS Research Ethics Committee (area and reference to be added).

**If you would like to discuss this study with one of the researchers before deciding whether to take part, please contact Alice Pearsons, Research Assistant, [a.pearsons@napier.ac.uk](mailto:a.pearsons@napier.ac.uk) Tel: 0131 4553392**

**If you would like to discuss this study with an independent person or make a complaint, please contact: Dr Janet Hanley, Principal Research Fellow of Edinburgh Napier University in the School of Health and Social Care email [J.Hanley@napier.ac.uk](mailto:J.Hanley@napier.ac.uk)**