

# Trainee-led evaluation of the need for intershift recovery among emergency department doctors in the United Kingdom: the TIRED-UK study

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<b>Registration date</b> 07/11/2019	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 05/11/2020	<b>Condition category</b> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

Emergency departments (ED) provide patient care 24 hours a day all year round. This requires staff to work long consecutive shifts that can result in fatigue. It is recognised that fatigue negatively impacts productivity, exacerbates the risk of human error, and could be associated with occupational burnout. From a patient perspective staff with excess fatigue could lead to reduced experience of care and increased patient safety concerns. Fatigue may be measured by a variety of approaches including psychometric testing, assessment of reaction speeds, and personal diaries. However, these methods are impractical for providing rapid assessment within a working population and have limited validity. With rates of burnout as high as 60% in ED doctors there is a need for effective measurements of fatigue in order to produce evidence-based solutions.

The 'need for recovery' (NFR) scale is a validated questionnaire originally developed in the Netherlands, to assess how work demands affect inter-shift recovery. It features eleven items requiring a 'yes' or 'no' response, takes only a few minutes to complete, and shows high acceptability amongst surveyed populations. An online survey using the NFR has been trialled by this research group in a single centre ED and was shown to be an acceptable means of measuring staff fatigue.

This study is a survey aiming to answer the question 'What is the baseline need for recovery (NFR) score among ED doctors in the UK and which factors influence NFR?'. It will achieve this by conducting a national study to characterise the baseline NFR score in ED doctors across the UK and determine whether there are any associations and differences between NFR scores and demographic, occupational, personal wellbeing, rota characteristics, or geographical region variables. The survey will be open for the period of one month and will take participants approximately 15 minutes to complete.

### Who can participate?

Doctors with full or provisional registration with the General Medical Council who have been employed in their main role as an ED doctor for the preceding month at the time of completion of the survey.

### What does the study involve?

Participants will complete an online questionnaire

### What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

This study has the potential to aid patient safety by providing individuals and employers with an indication of who is most at risk of increased NFR score, whether disparities exist between different staff groups, departments, and localities, and whether increased need for recovery is a predictor of future occupational burnout.

### Where is the study run from?

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

June 2018 to October 2019

### Who is funding the study?

Royal College of Emergency Medicine

### Who is the main contact?

Dr Laura Cottey,  
laura.cottey@nhs.net

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Scientific

### Contact name

Dr Laura Cottey

### ORCID ID

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## Additional identifiers

Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)

Nil known

**ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)**

Nil known

**Protocol serial number**

41938

## Study information

### Scientific Title

Trainee-led evaluation of the need for Intershift Recovery among Emergency Department doctors in the United Kingdom

### Acronym

TIRED-UK

### Study objectives

What is the baseline need for recovery (NFR) score among Emergency Department (ED) doctors in the UK and which factors influence NFR?

### Ethics approval required

Old ethics approval format

### Ethics approval(s)

Not required. Research limited to involvement of staff as participants (no involvement of patients/service users as participants)

### Study design

Observational; Design type: Cross-sectional

### Primary study design

Observational

### Study type(s)

Other

### Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Fatigue and recovery in doctors

### Interventions

This study is being conducted as part of the Trainee Emergency Research Network collaborative (TERN), an initiative by the Royal College of Emergency Medicine to widen access to research by ED doctors and specifically trainees.

The methodology for the survey has been designed with regard to the Checklist for Reporting Results of Internet Esurveys (CHERRIES).

The design is a cross-sectional online survey with additional ED demographic data collected by a local TERN representative. Each participant will complete the survey once. This design has been

chosen for ease of access by participants and has been amended following PPI consultation where proposed questions were reviewed.

The 57-item cross sectional survey has been previously trialled during a feasibility study and was found to be acceptable to participants and to have good face validity. The survey will seek to gather information on demographic characteristics (6 items), operational/rota characteristics (25 items), NFR questionnaire (11 items), perceptions relating to burnout (2 items) and one free text item to seek participant's views on suggestions on recovery.

The survey has been designed to minimise respondent fatigue and can be completed in 10-15 minutes using a smart phone app, computer or laptop.

In addition to the individual doctor surveys, a nominated TERN representative will collect anonymous site-specific data from EDs which is collected locally and nationally. This methodology has been chosen as previous surveys have found when participants are asked questions which requires them to calculate shift lengths and maximum number of shifts based over a certain period this reduces responses. This data is the same for each group of doctors on a specific rota and therefore can be collected from the roster without burdening participants. The information collected will also include broader information on the characteristics of the ED, staffing, rota pattern, leave allocation, teaching & training, consultant/ senior supervision, case-mix, specialist designation (e.g. Major Trauma Centre, Hyper- acute Stroke centre, etc.) which can then be associated with individuals' responses.

## **Intervention Type**

Other

## **Primary outcome(s)**

Baseline Need for Recovery (NFR) score amongst ED doctors in the UK assessed by NFR questionnaire.

## **Key secondary outcome(s)**

Assessed by 57-item survey:

1. Demographic characteristics
2. Occupational characteristics
3. Well-being characteristics

## **Completion date**

10/10/2019

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Doctors with full or provisional registration with the General Medical Council who have been employed in their main role as an ED doctor for the preceding month at the time of completion of the survey

This includes; ED consultants, ED specialist training doctors, ED associate specialist and staff grades doctors, acute common care stem trainees, GP trainees, Foundation Year one and two doctors, clinical fellows and trust grade doctors.

### **Participant type(s)**

Patient

**Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

**Age group**

Adult

**Sex**

All

**Total final enrolment**

4247

**Key exclusion criteria**

1. Doctors whose main place of employment is outside of the ED. This includes speciality doctors employed in specialties other than Emergency Medicine. This will be identified in the demographic questions asked in the survey
2. EDs designated as Type 2, 3, or 4 by NHS England

**Date of first enrolment**

03/06/2019

**Date of final enrolment**

15/07/2019

## **Locations**

**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

Northern Ireland

Scotland

Wales

**Study participating centre**

**NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde**

J B Russell House

Gartnavel Royal Hospital

1055 Great Western Road

Glasgow

United Kingdom

G12 0XH

**Study participating centre**

**University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust**

Clifford Bridge Road

Coventry

United Kingdom

CV2 2DX

**Study participating centre**

**Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust**

Portsmouth Road

Camberley

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GU16 7UJ

**Study participating centre**

**Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

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Hills Road

Cambridge

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CB2 0QQ

**Study participating centre**

**Croydon Health Services NHS Trust**

London Road

Thornton Heath

United Kingdom

CR7 7YE

**Study participating centre**

**University Hospitals Of Derby And Burton NHS Foundation Trust**

Royal Derby Hospital

Uttoxeter Road

Derby

United Kingdom

DE22 3NE

**Study participating centre**

**East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust**

Kent & Canterbury Hospital

Ethelbert Road  
Canterbury  
United Kingdom  
CT1 3NG

**Study participating centre**  
**Medway NHS Foundation Trust**  
Windmill Road  
Gillingham  
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ME7 5NY

**Study participating centre**  
**Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**  
Rake lane  
North Shields  
United Kingdom  
NE29 8NH

**Study participating centre**  
**Royal Liverpool Hospital**  
Prescot Street  
Liverpool  
United Kingdom  
L7 8XP

**Study participating centre**  
**Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**  
Fazakerley Hospital  
Lower Lane  
Liverpool  
United Kingdom  
L7 9AL

**Study participating centre**  
**Great Western Hospital**  
Marlborough Road  
Swindon  
United Kingdom  
SN3 6BB

**Study participating centre**  
**Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust**  
Barrack Road  
Exeter  
United Kingdom  
EX2 5DW

**Study participating centre**  
**St Helens And Knowsley Hospital Services NHS Trust**  
Whiston Hospital  
Warrington Road  
Precot  
United Kingdom  
L35 5DR

**Study participating centre**  
**Northwick Park Hospital**  
Watford Road  
Harrow  
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HA1 3UJ

**Study participating centre**  
**Gloucester Royal Hospital**  
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Great Western Road  
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United Kingdom  
GL1 3NN

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**University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust**  
Southampton  
United Kingdom  
SO16 6YD

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**Southport And Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust**  
Southport

United Kingdom  
PR8 6PN

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**Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust**  
London  
United Kingdom  
W2 1NY

**Study participating centre**  
**NHS Blackburn With Darwen CCG**  
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United Kingdom  
BB1 2FD

**Study participating centre**  
**NHS Fife**  
Cupar  
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KY15 5UP

**Study participating centre**  
**Lewisham And Greenwich NHS Trust**  
London  
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SE13 6LH

**Study participating centre**  
**University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust**  
Plymouth  
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PL6 8DH

**Study participating centre**  
**Torbay And South Devon NHS Foundation Trust**  
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TQ2 7AA

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**University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust**  
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United Kingdom  
LE1 5WW

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**Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust**  
Manchester  
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M13 9WL

**Study participating centre**  
**Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**  
Crewe  
United Kingdom  
CW1 4QJ

**Study participating centre**  
**Southern Health & Social Care Trust**  
Craigavon Area Hospital  
68 Lurgan Road  
Portadown  
United Kingdom  
BT63 5QQ

**Study participating centre**  
**University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust**  
Birmingham  
United Kingdom  
B15 2TH

**Study participating centre**  
**Cardiff & Vale University LHB**  
Cardiff  
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CF14 4XW

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**South Eastern Health & Social Care**  
Dundonald  
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BT16 1RH

**Study participating centre**  
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TA1 5DA

**Study participating centre**  
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United Kingdom  
TS4 3BW

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**University Hospitals Bristol Nhs Foundation Trust**  
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BS1 3NU

**Study participating centre**  
**NHS Lothian**  
Edinburgh  
United Kingdom  
EH1 3EG

**Study participating centre**  
**The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals Nhs Foundation Trust**  
Newcastle  
United Kingdom  
NE7 7DN

**Study participating centre**

**Belfast Health & Social Care Trust**

Belfast  
United Kingdom  
BT9 7AB

**Study participating centre**

**Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust**

Manchester  
United Kingdom  
M8 5RB

**Study participating centre**

**Guy's And St Thomas' Nhs Foundation Trust**

London  
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SE1 9RT

**Study participating centre**

**Portsmouth Hospitals Nhs Trust**

Portsmouth  
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PO6 3LY

**Study participating centre**

**Chelsea And Westminster Hospital Nhs Foundation Trust**

London  
United Kingdom  
SW10 9NH

**Study participating centre**

**St George's University Hospitals Nhs Foundation Trust**

London  
United Kingdom  
SW17 0QT

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**James Paget University Hospitals Nhs Foundation Trust**  
Great Yarmouth  
United Kingdom  
NR31 6LA

**Study participating centre**  
**East Suffolk And North Essex Nhs Foundation Trust**  
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United Kingdom  
CO4 5JL

**Study participating centre**  
**West Hertfordshire Hospitals Nhs Trust**  
Watford  
United Kingdom  
WD18 0HB

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**West Suffolk Nhs Foundation Trust**  
Bury St. Edmunds  
United Kingdom  
IP33 2QZ

**Study participating centre**  
**NHS Grampian**  
Aberdeen  
United Kingdom  
AB15 6RE

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**Homerton University Hospital Nhs Foundation Trust**  
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**Leeds Teaching Hospitals Nhs Trust**

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**Harrogate And District Nhs Foundation Trust**

Harrogate  
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HG2 7SX

**Study participating centre**

**Salford Royal Nhs Foundation Trust**

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M6 8HD

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**Study participating centre**  
**Doncaster And Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals Nhs Foundation Trust**  
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**NHS Ayrshire and Arran**

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KA7 1QJ

**Study participating centre**

**Warrington and Halton Hospitals Nhs Foundation Trust**

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**Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals Nhs Trust**

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**Study participating centre**

**Bolton Nhs Foundation Trust**

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**Study participating centre**

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BD9 6RJ

**Study participating centre**

**Brighton And Sussex University Hospitals Nhs Trust**

Brighton  
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BN2 5BE

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**Oxford University Hospitals Nhs Foundation Trust**  
Oxford  
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OX3 9DU

**Study participating centre**  
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United Kingdom  
MK6 5LD

**Study participating centre**  
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United Kingdom  
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**Study participating centre**  
**Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Nhs Trust**  
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SY3 8XQ

**Study participating centre**  
**Royal Surrey County Hospital Nhs Foundation Trust**  
Guildford  
United Kingdom  
GU2 7XX

**Study participating centre**  
**Royal United Hospitals Bath Nhs Foundation Trust**  
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BA1 3NG

**Study participating centre**

**Sheffield Children's Nhs Foundation Trust**

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United Kingdom  
S10 2TH

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**Study participating centre****Yeovil District Hospital Nhs Foundation Trust**

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**Study participating centre****NHS Forth Valley**

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FK8 1DX

## Sponsor information

**Organisation**

University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust

**ROR**

<https://ror.org/05x3jck08>

## Funder(s)

**Funder type**

Research organisation

**Funder Name**

Royal College of Emergency Medicine; Grant Codes: GR222017

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

The datasets generated during and/or analysed during the current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request from Dr Tom Roberts, TERN@rcem.ac.uk.

Anonymised data to both individual and site will be available for one year after the study. This will be available to principal investigators. Others may request the data and such requests will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

## IPD sharing plan summary

Available on request

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Results article</a>	results	02/11/2020	05/11/2020	Yes	No
<a href="#">Protocol file</a>		20/02/2019	07/11/2019	No	No
<a href="#">Study website</a>	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes