

# General practice study about chest infections in adults

<b>Submission date</b> 30/05/2022	<b>Recruitment status</b> No longer recruiting	<input type="checkbox"/> Prospectively registered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protocol
<b>Registration date</b> 04/04/2024	<b>Overall study status</b> Completed	<input type="checkbox"/> Statistical analysis plan <input type="checkbox"/> Results
<b>Last Edited</b> 28/11/2025	<b>Condition category</b> Respiratory	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual participant data <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Record updated in last year

## Plain English summary of protocol

### Background and study aims

In this study the researchers would like to understand how frequently patients present to primary care (GP practices and out-of-hours providers) with chest infections and worsening of heart failure and, of these, how many could be prevented by vaccinations. They have included worsening of heart failure as this may be caused by infection. The study will help to provide information on how many chest infections could be prevented by vaccinations, if there are certain groups of patients who are at greater risk of such infections and so may benefit more from vaccinations than others, and how people rate their health while they are ill.

A preparatory study called AvonCAP GP1 has been carried out to address how chest infections are recorded in GP records. A GP might suspect that a patient has a chest infection, but they might not record this in a standardised way that allows us to identify these patients. For example, they might record the main problem as 'cough' rather than 'chest infection'. The researchers are therefore working with GPs to make sure that they are recording a diagnosis of chest infections in an agreed way. This is important because it will allow them to identify patients with confirmed or possible chest infections from GP records and accurately estimate the number of patients with respiratory infections. This will allow a better understanding of the burden that this condition has on patients and on the NHS.

The researchers want to understand:

1. What impact these illnesses have on patients and the NHS
2. How many of these illnesses could be prevented by vaccination (e.g. with COVID vaccines and other vaccines that are being developed); and
3. What groups of patients might benefit most from vaccination.

### Who can participate?

Adults aged 18 years and over who are registered at one of the six recruiting GP practices who present to their GP practice, out-of-hours primary care provider (Brisdoc) or to the Emergency Department with a chest infection or flare-up of asthma, chronic obstructive airways disease (COPD) or heart failure.

### What does the study involve?

The researchers will provide patients with written information about the study (e.g. why we are doing the project and what it involves) and they will be able to discuss any questions or concerns

with the study team.

Those who choose to take part will give consent (permission):

1. To access routinely collected information from their medical records;
2. To answer a survey about their health (including vaccinations they have had and about their long-term medical conditions), quality of life and COVID (a survey called the 'COVID risk behaviour questionnaire');
3. To give samples (e.g. urine, nose/throat swabs, saliva) to find out about the types of germs causing the infections;
4. To fill out a symptom diary (including some questions about types of symptoms, severity of symptoms, quality of life and time off work);
5. To fill out a follow-up diary about quality of life and time off work (only applies to people with ongoing symptoms at 4 weeks; short survey to be completed fortnightly initially then monthly up to 6 months, then 3-monthly up to 12 months)

The survey, samples, symptom diary and follow-up diary are all optional.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

This study will not directly benefit patients taking part but will help to understand more about chest infections and who might benefit most from vaccinations. It is hoped that this will benefit other patients in the future. Taking nose and throat samples can be a little uncomfortable during the collection and can rarely cause a mild nosebleed.

The researchers will be very careful to keep information collected about participants confidential. The study is designed to protect people's privacy and the researchers commit to using their information in an appropriate way. The data will be anonymised – there will be no way of identifying the person from the data. Any identifiable data (e.g. NHS number or date of birth) will be stored securely and kept separate from the other data.

Where is the study run from?

The study is sponsored by the University of Bristol and is recruiting from six GP practices in Bristol (UK)

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

September 2021 to December 2024

Who is funding the study?

Pfizer (USA)

Who are the main contacts?

1. Dr Polly Duncan, [polly.duncan@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:polly.duncan@bristol.ac.uk)
2. Dr Ruth Mears, [ruth.mears@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.mears@bristol.ac.uk)

## Contact information

### Type(s)

Principal investigator

### Contact name

Dr Polly Duncan

### ORCID ID

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2244-3254>

**Contact details**

Centre for Academic Primary Care  
Population Health Sciences  
University of Bristol  
Canynge Hall  
Whatley Road  
Bristol  
United Kingdom  
BS8 2PS  
+44 (0)117 455 6763  
polly.duncan@bristol.ac.uk

**Type(s)**

Principal investigator

**Contact name**

Dr Ruth Mears

**ORCID ID**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1498-6996>

**Contact details**

Centre for Academic Primary Care  
Population Health Sciences  
University of Bristol  
Canynge Hall  
Whatley Road  
Bristol  
United Kingdom  
BS8 2PS  
+44 (0)117 455 6763  
ruth.mears@bristol.ac.uk

**Type(s)**

Scientific

**Contact name**

Prof Adam Finn

**ORCID ID**

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1756-5668>

**Contact details**

Population Health Sciences  
Bristol Medical School  
University of Bristol  
Level 6 UH Bristol Education and Research Centre  
Upper Maudlin Street  
Bristol  
United Kingdom  
BS2 8AE

+44 (0)1173420172  
adam.finn@bristol.ac.uk

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

**Contact name**  
Dr Siân Porter

**Contact details**  
Bristol Vaccine Centre  
39 - 41 St Michael's Hill  
Bristol  
United Kingdom  
BS2 8DX  
+44 (0)117 455 6763  
avoncapgp-study@bristol.ac.uk

**Type(s)**  
Scientific

**Contact name**  
Dr Jennifer Oliver

**Contact details**  
Bristol Vaccine Centre  
39 - 41 St Michael's Hill  
Bristol  
United Kingdom  
BS2 8DX  
+44 (0)117 3310127  
Jennifer.Oliver@bristol.ac.uk

## **Additional identifiers**

**Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)**  
Nil known

**Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)**  
305956

**ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT)**  
Nil known

**Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)**  
51111

## **Study information**

**Scientific Title**

Establishing the burden of vaccine-preventable acute lower respiratory tract infections in primary care, UK

## **Acronym**

AvonCAP GP2

## **Study objectives**

Vaccines against respiratory pathogens *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (SP), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) are available or under development. Traditionally, the burden of vaccine-preventable illness is estimated by studying the incidence of severe illness in secondary care. While important in terms of morbidity and mortality, this underestimates the total burden of illness, and therefore vaccine cost-effectiveness, since a higher community incidence offsets the lower costs associated with less severe illness.

Respiratory pathogens like SP, RSV and SARS-CoV-2 may enter the human host via the upper respiratory tract, but they cause more severe illnesses when they infect the lower respiratory tract and, in the most severe cases, become systemic. Typically, people with acute lower respiratory tract infection (aLRTI) present to primary care with an acute cough and symptoms or signs attributable to lower respiratory tract involvement, such as sputum, wheeze or shortness of breath. However, there is also evidence to suggest heart failure and chronic lung diseases may have exacerbations triggered by such microbes in the absence of typical 'infection' symptoms.

Patients recruited from six GP practices which represent the different demographics within the Bristol area will provide data for population-based incidence rates of adults  $\geq 18$  years of age presenting to primary care with community-acquired LRTI. This study, along with her sister secondary care study (Avon CAP, ISRCTN17354061) will estimate comprehensively the primary and secondary care burden of acute lower respiratory tract disease (aLRTD; including aLRTI, presumed non-infective exacerbation of chronic lung disease and exacerbation of pre-existing heart failure), overall and for vaccine-preventable infections, including SP, RSV and SARS-CoV-2.

## **Ethics approval required**

Old ethics approval format

## **Ethics approval(s)**

Approved 22/12/2021, Yorkshire and the Humber Bradford Leeds REC (HRA Bristol, Ground Floor Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Bristol, BS1 6PN, UK; +44 (0)2071048210, bradfordleeds.rec@hra.nhs.uk), ref: 21/YH/0271

## **Study design**

Observational; Design type: Cohort study

## **Primary study design**

Observational

## **Study type(s)**

Other

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

Vaccine-preventable acute lower respiratory tract infections

## **Interventions**

AvonCAP GP2 is a prospective cohort study that aims to estimate the incidence and burden of acute lower respiratory tract infection (aLRTI) in adults presenting to primary care in Bristol, including vaccine-preventable SP, RSV and COVID-19-attributed aLRTI. Adults ( $\geq 18$  years) will be eligible if they present to either their GP practice or the out-of-hours provider with an acute illness (onset  $\leq 28$  days) and symptoms/signs consistent with a clinical diagnosis of aLRTD (including aLRTI, presumed non-infective exacerbation of chronic lung disease and exacerbation of pre-existing heart failure). Adults with presumed non-infective exacerbations have been included in the study as a proportion of these will have an infective cause.

There are two parts to the study: a surveillance study, extracting routinely collected GP record data on patients who meet the eligibility criteria; and an embedded diagnostic study, collecting additional data, including an enrolment survey (including quality of life), symptom diary (including symptoms, time off work and quality of life) and naso-pharyngeal/oropharyngeal, saliva and urine samples. All eligible participants will be invited to participate in both parts of the study. Participants will be reimbursed for taking part in the embedded diagnostic study.

To enable health professionals working in participating GP practices to prioritize clinical care, most study activities will be undertaken by the research team. They will be based within the premises of participating practices and will comprise research nurses, fieldworkers, administrators, and study coordinators. Necessary data-sharing agreements and honorary contracts between named members of the research team and named participating GP practices will be in place. Approval has been provided by the 'Confidentiality Advisory Group' (CAG) for research practitioners and pre-specified suitably trained members of the research team who are not part of the direct care team to screen identifiable information before the planned consent process.

The clinical (direct care) team will be involved in recruiting patients into the study. If a health professional diagnoses an adult patient with an aLRTD, a prompt will appear advising that the patient is eligible for the study, asking the health professional to briefly outline that we are doing some research about chest infections and seek their permission to send a text message about the study and for the research team to follow-up with a phone call (to explain more about the study). Participating practices will be reimbursed for time taken to invite each patient to take part in the study.

The present study will build on interventions (e.g. training, computer prompts and feedback reports) developed and refined during the AvonCAP GP1 (preparatory) study, to optimise the coding of respiratory infections during routine primary care consultations.

## **Intervention Type**

Other

## **Primary outcome(s)**

The incidence of acute lower respiratory tract infection (aLRTI) in adults presenting to primary care and the proportion caused by vaccine preventable infections, including *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) and SARS-CoV-2. Measured using data extracted from primary care medical records and samples collected over a 30-month period between February 2022 and July 2024.

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

Collected over a 30-month period between February 2022 and July 2024:

1. The demographic (e.g. age, sex, deprivation), clinical (e.g. symptoms, signs, severity, comorbidities), and microbiological (all respiratory pathogens) characteristics for adults presenting to primary care with aLRTD, overall and by final clinical diagnosis. Demographic and clinical data will be measured at baseline and Day 30 (for a subset of patients) using data extracted from primary care medical records. Microbiological characteristics will be assessed through sampling data collected through the enhanced diagnostic study arm.
2. The natural history of aLRTD, including patient-reported symptom duration and severity; antibiotic/antiviral consumption; respiratory pathogen isolation; time off work, primary care consultations, hospital admission and quality of life (EQ-5D) initially for up to 28 days after presentation to primary care (and up to a maximum of 12 months for those who have not recovered at 28 days), overall and by final clinical diagnosis. This will be measured using data extracted from primary care medical records, symptom diaries and sampling data.
3. Time trends in population-based incidence rates of aLRTD related to fluctuations in the COVID-19 pandemic. This will be measured using data extracted from primary care medical records at baseline, counting patients presenting to primary care with aLRTD, and sampling data.
4. Mortality rate at 30 days (and up to a maximum of 12 months for those who have not recovered at 28 days) after primary care visit for aLRTD (and its subcategories), overall and by age group and risk group status. Mortality rates will be measured through data extracted from primary care medical records.
5. The pathogen distribution rates of RSV, SARS-CoV-2, and other viral pathogens among adults diagnosed with exacerbation of congestive heart failure, non-infective exacerbation of asthma and non-infective exacerbation of COPD. This will be measured through data extracted from primary care medical records at Day 1 and Day 30, and sampling data.
6. The financial costs of aLRTD from patient and NHS perspectives, overall and by final clinical diagnosis and pathogen. This will be calculated using data extracted from primary care medical records (Day 1 and Day 30), symptom diaries (time off work) and sampling data.
7. The proportion of presumed non-infective aLRTD diagnoses (overall, acute exacerbation of pre-existing heart failure and non-infective exacerbation of pre-existing chronic lung disease) associated with respiratory pathogens (overall and individually), both overall and stratified by age and severity of symptoms. This will be measured from data extracted from primary care medical records and sampling data.

## **Completion date**

30/11/2025

## **Eligibility**

### **Key inclusion criteria**

1. Aged  $\geq 18$  years of age; AND
2. Presenting to primary care with acute illness (i.e., present for 28 days or less); AND
3. Evidence of aLRTD\* as guided by the following criteria:
  - 3.1. Evidence of aLRTI (including acute bronchitis, pneumonia and infective exacerbations of chronic lung disease):
    - 3.1.1. Clinical suspicion of LRTI and new/worsened cough with one or more of the following signs /symptoms: sputum production or purulence, chest pain, wheeze, shortness of breath, tachypnoea or abnormal auscultatory findings suggestive of aLRTI; OR
    - 3.1.2. Clinical diagnosis of aLRTI OR
  - 3.2. Evidence of acute exacerbation of pre-existing heart failure with respiratory symptoms:
    - 3.2.1. Clinical suspicion of acute exacerbation of pre-existing heart failure and new or worsening

of two or more of the following signs/symptoms: cough (including nocturnal cough), shortness of breath, wheeze, tachypnoea, abnormal auscultatory findings suggestive of exacerbation of heart failure; OR

3.2.2. Clinical diagnosis of acute exacerbation of heart failure with respiratory symptoms OR

3.3. Evidence of non-infective exacerbation of pre-existing chronic lung disease:

3.3.1. Clinical suspicion of presumed non-infective exacerbation of pre-existing chronic lung disease and new or worsening of two or more of cough, shortness of breath, wheeze, tachypnea, abnormal auscultatory findings suggestive of acute non-infective exacerbation; OR

3.3.2. Clinical diagnosis of non-infective exacerbation

\*Acute lower respiratory tract disease (aLRTD) includes acute lower respiratory tract infection (aLRTI) and its subgroups, acute exacerbation of pre-existing heart failure and presumed non-infective exacerbation of chronic lung disease.

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

Patient

### **Healthy volunteers allowed**

No

### **Age group**

Mixed

### **Lower age limit**

18 years

### **Upper age limit**

100 years

### **Sex**

All

### **Total final enrolment**

2306

### **Key exclusion criteria**

1. Previously enrolled participants within 28 days of the onset of the study qualifying aLRTD illness
2. At the time of enrolment, alternative non-LRTD working diagnosis suspected
3. Presenting to primary care with the same episode of aLRTD for which they have been discharged from hospital
4. Any patient who develops signs and symptoms of LRTD after being hospitalized for  $\geq 48$  hours

### **Date of first enrolment**

14/02/2022

### **Date of final enrolment**

31/07/2024

## **Locations**



**Countries of recruitment**

United Kingdom

England

**Study participating centre****University of Bristol**

Canygne Hall

39 Whatley Road

Bristol

England

BS8 2PS

**Study participating centre****Pioneer Medical Group**

Ardenton Walk

Bristol

England

BS10 6SP

**Study participating centre****Concorde Medical Centre**

Braydon Avenue

Little Stoke

Bristol

England

BS34 6BQ

**Study participating centre****Tyntesfield Medical Group**

Nailsea Family Practice

Tower House Medical Centre

Stock Way South, Nailsea

Bristol

England

BS48 2XX

**Study participating centre****Courtside Surgery**

Kennedy Way

Yate

Bristol  
England  
BS37 4DQ

**Study participating centre**  
**Montpelier Health Centre**  
Bath Buildings  
Montpelier  
Bristol  
England  
BS6 5PT

**Study participating centre**  
**The Wellspring Surgery**  
Beam Street  
Redfield  
Bristol  
England  
BS5 9QY

## Sponsor information

**Organisation**  
University of Bristol

**ROR**  
<https://ror.org/0524sp257>

## Funder(s)

**Funder type**  
Industry

**Funder Name**  
Pfizer

**Alternative Name(s)**  
Pfizer Inc., Pfizer Consumer Healthcare, Davis, Charles Pfizer & Company, Warner-Lambert, King Pharmaceuticals, Wyeth Pharmaceuticals, Seagen, Pfizer Inc

## Funding Body Type

Government organisation

## Funding Body Subtype

For-profit companies (industry)

## Location

United States of America

# Results and Publications

## Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

### IPD sharing plan summary

Not expected to be made available

## Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
<a href="#">Protocol article</a>		02/01/2025	17/01/2025	Yes	No
<a href="#">Participant information sheet</a>	Participant information sheet	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes
<a href="#">Study website</a>	Study website	11/11/2025	11/11/2025	No	Yes