



University of Brighton

Parent/Guardian Information Sheet

Evaluation of physiotherapist and podiatrist independent prescribing

Dear Parent or guardian

Your child is being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide if they participate it is important that you understand why the research is being undertaken and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If there is anything that is not clear, or you would like to know more about, please contact one of us (using the details provided in this sheet). Take time to decide whether or not you wish your child to take part. If you and your child decide to take part, you will be given a copy of the information sheet and the signed consent form.

What is the purpose of the study?

Since 2013, physiotherapists and podiatrists have been able to undertake training so that they can prescribe medicines. It is hoped that by taking on the prescribing role, patients will be able to access medicines faster and so be provided with a better service. This research project, carried out by the University of Surrey and the University of Brighton, sets out to evaluate this change in provision.

Aim of the study

The aim of this study is to see if there are any differences in the cost or quality of care between physiotherapists and podiatrists who are trained to prescribe medicines and those who have not received this training. The findings of this research will help inform the future development of physiotherapy and podiatry prescribing.

Why has my child been chosen?

We have asked your child to take part because they are receiving care from a podiatrist or a physiotherapist. We are interested in your child's experiences of receiving this care. The research is taking place in up to 12 clinics in different locations across England.

Does my child have to take part?

No. it is up to you and your child (wherever possible) to decide whether to take part or not. You are both free to withdraw from the research at any time and without giving a reason. Your decisions about this will not affect the standard of care your child will receive.

What will happen to my child if we agree to take part?

If you and your child are happy to take part you will be asked to sign a consent form. If your child is able to understand the research and is happy to take part and can write their name, they will be asked to sign an assent form. You will be given a copy of the signed information sheet and consent forms to keep for your records.

Participation in the study will involve one or more of the following:

1. Having your child's consultation with the physiotherapist or podiatrist observed by an experienced researcher from Surrey University.
2. Having your child's consultation with the physiotherapist or podiatrist audio-recorded. If during the consultation a prescription is made for your child, the researcher will make a copy of this for research purposes. Only a small number of consultations will be recorded and you may not be asked to do this.
3. Completing a questionnaire after your child's consultation. This should take 10-15 minutes to complete. It includes questions about the care your child received from the physiotherapist or podiatrist. Once complete, please either hand the questionnaire to reception or post it back to us using the stamped envelope provided.
4. Being contacted by a researcher two months after the consultation in order to provide information about your child's health service use since the appointment.
5. Having a researcher look at relevant sections of your child's medical notes to collect data for research purposes. Only a random selection of patient notes will be looked at in this way.

Your child may be happy to take part in some of these activities but not all of them. This is OK, just let the researcher know.

Will my taking part in this study be confidential?

All information collected during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential and secured against unauthorised access in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

What are the possible benefits and disadvantages of taking part?

There are no direct benefits for your child today however the information from this study will help us to see if physiotherapists and podiatrists who prescribe medicines for children provide an effective service.

There are no disadvantages other than the time it takes to complete the questionnaire. The researcher will ensure that interference with the consultation is kept to a minimum, however if you or your child feels uncomfortable at any time during the consultation please ask the researcher to leave the room. Remember that your child can withdraw from the study at any time without needing to give a reason.

What happens when the research project stops?

If your child needs to come and see the physiotherapist or podiatrist again, his/her care and treatment will continue in the usual manner.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The study will take 2 years to complete and the findings will be published in academic journals for healthcare professionals and presented at conferences. No identifying information about you or your child will be included in any reports or papers. In line with university policy, data collected for the purposes of this research will be kept securely at the University of Surrey for 10 years before being destroyed.

We will provide a summary of the findings to the clinic to display and we are happy to provide you with a written copy of the findings if you request this.

Ethical Review

This project has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the University of Surrey Ethics Committee, and NRES London-Surrey Borders ethics committee.

What if there is a problem or something goes wrong?

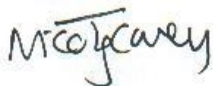
If you have any complaint about the way you or your child have been dealt with during the study or any possible harm you might suffer, you should speak to the Professor Sara Faithfull on Tel 01483-682468 or email s.fairhfull@surrey.ac.uk

Contact for further information

If you have any questions regarding this study please contact Nicola using the contact details below.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information.

Yours Sincerely



Nicola Carey (Principal Investigator)

Senior Lecturer Tel: 01483 684512 Email: n.carey@surrey.ac.uk

School of Health Sciences, Faculty of Health & Medical Sciences, University of Surrey,
Guildford, GU2 7TE

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Please complete the following:

Please indicate how you prefer to be contacted by the researcher in two months' time about your health service use:

Telephone Email No Preference

Best weekday and time to be contacted _____

Please indicate if you would like to receive a summary of the overall results of this survey:

Yes No

Please provide your contact details in the space provided (block capitals).

Name of child receiving treatment _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Mobile _____

Landline _____

Your name and contact information will be kept separately from any other information that you have provided. All information will be processed in the strictest confidence in line with the data protection Act (1998).