



Participant information sheet

Understanding Research capacity and activity across East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust

You are being invited to take part in a survey. Before you decide whether or not to take part, it is important for you to understand why the survey is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully.

What is the purpose of the survey?

Research is considered core business of the NHS, and there is good evidence that trusts who participate in research have improved patient outcomes. Organizations seeking to improve their research capacity and culture require valid, reliable, and resource-efficient methods of measuring change over time, so that the outcomes of research capacity building initiatives can be rigorously evaluated.

The aim of this survey is to evaluate the current research capacity and activity among healthcare staff working in East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (ELHT). This will form part of a needs assessment to inform the development of tailored research capacity building strategies to address local strengths, limitations, and priorities within ELHT and the wider Integrated Care System.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been asked to participate as you are a Registered Health Care Professional and/or member of the clinical care team at ELHT.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You do not need to take part and do not need to give a reason if you do not want to participate.

If you do decide to take part you can keep this information sheet. We do not need you to complete a consent form – we will assume you give your consent to participate in the study when you submit your completed survey. We do ask for some personal information about your profession, qualifications and where you work, which means you may indirectly be identified from that information in combination with other information. This means that once the survey is submitted, we may **not** know which are your answers, so it may not be possible to withdraw your data.

If you wish, you can opt-in to give us your email address if you would like to be contacted by the Developing Research Team about research opportunities, to get more detailed results of the survey or if you wish to take part in a prize draw towards £300 for CPD (continuing professional development) activities (relevant course or conference). If you have given your email address and decide to withdraw, it will be possible to withdraw your data whilst the survey is open. You can do this by contacting the research team with any of the contact information provided. Once the survey has closed and analysis has started (anticipated August 2020), it will not be possible to withdraw your data. Data will be stored according to General Data Protection Regulations.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you wish to take part in the survey, you will click a link in the accompanying email which will open an online survey. The survey will take about 10 minutes to complete and will ask you about your thoughts on research capacity and culture at an organisational, team and individual level.

We will ask about research activity and who wants to be involved in future research, as well as what you think the barriers and motivators are for you being involved in research. This will help us to develop the support we offer, so whether you are an experienced researcher, novice or have no interest in research, please be honest with your responses, as these will be kept confidential.

Finally, we will ask for some information about your professional background, the area in which you work, your educational history and research experience.

The survey is anonymous, but respondents are asked for their email address if they would like to take part in a prize draw for £300 towards relevant CPD activity, to receive a report on the results of the survey or to be contacted about further research opportunities. Each of these is a separate opt-in question.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The survey will form a baseline understanding of research capability and activity and, as already mentioned, inform the development of tailored research capacity building strategies to address local strengths, limitations, and priorities within ELHT and the wider Integrated Care System. This may benefit participants in terms of tailored research support and opportunities.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

There are no anticipated risks of taking part in this study.

Will what I say in this study be kept confidential?

All data included in the survey will be anonymous. We do ask for some personal information about your profession, qualifications and where you work, which means you may indirectly be identified from that information in combination with other information, but this is unlikely and we will not be analysing individual responses. All data will be kept securely for 5 years after the end of the project. If you choose to provide your email address to the team, you will only be contacted by the Developing Research Team (to be informed about research opportunities, results of the study, or to be included in the prize draw) and your email address will not be passed on to any agencies outside of the university or the Trust.

What should I do if I want to take part?

If you would like to participate, please complete the survey.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The results of the study will be published in a report which may be shared with ELHT colleagues and other research networks such as the Council for Allied Health Professionals in Research (CAHPR) as part of wider research capacity building projects. We also intend to seek publication in a peer reviewed journal and to present at conferences.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is being carried out by ELHT and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan).

Who has reviewed the study?

The study has been approved by the HEALTH University Research Ethics Committee.

Contact for Further Information

If you would like further information about the survey, please contact ResearchIdeas@elht.nhs.uk and add 'RCC survey' to the 'Subject' field.

Or you can contact the project lead directly: Prof Louise Connell Email laconnell@uclan.ac.uk

If you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you should contact University Officer for Ethics (OfficerforEthics@uclan.ac.uk).

Thank you for taking time to read this sheet and for considering participating in the survey.