

Participant Information Sheet

Department of
Pharmacy &
Pharmacology



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Producing a vision for the future of community pharmacy in England – Study 3

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This information sheet forms part of the process of informed consent. It should give you the basic idea of what the research is about and what your participation will involve. Please read this information sheet carefully and ask the researcher named above if you are not clear about any details of the project.

1. What is the purpose of the study?

This study aims to understand the views of members of the public on how the services provided by community pharmacies (chemists' shops) should develop in the future.

2. Who is carrying out the study?

The study is carried out by Evina Paloumpi, a PhD student from the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology at the University of Bath. It is supervised by:

- Dr Matthew Jones, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
- Dr Piotr Ozieranski, Department of Social & Policy Sciences
- Professor Margaret Watson, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology

The PhD scholarship is supported by Dr Bharat Shah and Sigma Pharmaceuticals.

3. Who can take part in this study?

It is completely up to you to decide if you would like to participate. I am looking for members of the public who use pharmacies regularly either for themselves or someone else. If you are a health professional, you will not be able to take part.

4. What does the study involve?

Volunteers for this study will be asked to take part in a confidential small group discussion. During our discussion I will ask about your opinions on how the services provided by community pharmacies should develop in the future. Groups will include 5-8 participants.

The small group discussions will be held in the centre of Bath. Every discussion will be audio-recorded. Unfortunately you will not be able to participate if you do not wish to be recorded. I may also be keeping some hand-written notes during the conversation. Both the recordings and the notes will be treated as confidential and used only by researcher and supervisory team.

Your attendance is required for two small group discussions approximately one month apart. After the first small group discussion you will be given some information to read before attending our second discussion. You will also be given feedback on what we discussed on our first group discussion.

5. How much time will the study take?

Each discussion will last approximately 60-90 minutes.

6. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

After each discussion, you will be given a £10 Amazon or Love2Shop voucher (which can be spent on a variety of high street shops). In total each participant will receive two £10 vouchers. We will also pay your travel expenses.

7. What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?

There are not any expected disadvantages from your participation apart from the amount of time that you need to set aside. If for any reason you feel distressed during our discussion, the conversation will be paused or even stopped if you wish to do so.

8. Can I withdraw from the study?

Your participation is entirely voluntary and you are under no obligation to take part. You can always withdraw from the study at any point without providing reasons for doing so. If you have attended your small group discussion and you wish to withdraw your data you can contact the researcher and ask for your data to be removed. This can be done within the first two weeks of your participation. After this date it may not be possible to withdraw your data as the data analysis will have proceeded.

9. What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researcher. You can find my contact details in the first page of this information sheet and I will try my best to answer your queries. If you feel I was unable to resolve your query, or for any reason you wish to make a formal complaint, you can contact the Research Ethics Approval Committee for Health (REACH) at the University of Bath. Their contact details are: 01225 384714, health-ethics@bath.ac.uk.

10. Who will have access to the information that I provide?

All the data derived from the discussions will be stored safely and securely at University of Bath. All the information you provide will be treated as confidential. Every recording will be typed up for word by someone from the University of Bath. Every piece of personally identifiable information will be removed from these typed files and the hand-written notes from the researcher to ensure that all written documents are anonymous.

Only the researcher and supervisory team will have access to the identifiable information you provide. Discussions will be transcribed by employees from University of Bath. Thus, transcribers will have access only to your audio recordings. Anonymous information may be made publicly available via the University of Bath Research Data Archive. Information will be retained for ten years and will then be securely destroyed.

11. What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of this study may be published in scientific journals or presented at conferences using anonymized data. Any publication or presentation material will maintain your individual anonymity at all times. Individuals will not be mentioned and will be protected by the use of numbers. Quotes from your discussions may be used but any identifiable information will have been removed to prevent people from identifying you.

12. Who has reviewed the study?

This project has been given a favourable opinion by the University of Bath, Research Ethics Approval Committee for Health (REACH) [reference: EP 17/18 256].

13. What if I require further information?

If you require further information once you have read this information sheet, do not hesitate to contact the researcher; I will be happy to address any questions you may have. My contact details can be found on the first page of this sheet. If you are interested in participating in my study you can continue reading the separate consent form provided.

Thank you in advance for your time.