

Participant information Sheet



The Research Activities of Advanced Practitioners Working in General Practice: A Cultural-Historical Perspective

(The REACT Study)

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

Study title

The Research Activities of Advanced Practitioners Working in General Practice: A Cultural-Historical Perspective

(The REACT Study)

What is the purpose of the study?

The REACT study aims to understand the research activities of advanced practitioners through interviewing, observing and completing reflective templates in a qualitative study. The data for the study will be collected over a period of one year.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited to participate as you are currently working as an advanced practitioner in general practice.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to participate, you will be given information sheets to keep and asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time. You are free to withdraw your interview data until the interviews are transcribed and the observation and reflective templates are analysed. This will be around one week after the data has been collected. You do not need to give a reason if you withdraw or withdraw your data. Declining to participate in the study will not affect your current or future job role.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you choose to take part in this research, you will participate in two interviews, two observations and complete five reflective templates. One interview and one period of observation will take place and then will be repeated around six weeks later. During the six weeks you will be asked to complete five reflective templates.

Interviews

Interviews will take place at a date, time and place of your choosing. If it is convenient for you and your employer agrees the interview can take on the day I am observing you. If not, the interview will be conducted remotely. The interview will involve me introducing myself, answering any questions you have and confirming your consent to participate. Then, I will begin the interview and will ask you questions about your research activities. I estimate the interview will take around 60 minutes, but it is fine if you need more or less time. Please remember that you do not have to answer any questions you are not comfortable answering or share information you are not comfortable sharing. With your consent, the interview will be audio-recorded using a password protected device. If you do not consent, the interview will not be recorded. The recording will be used to create a written transcript of the interview, which I will analyse as part of the research.

Observations

I will come to your workplace to observe your research activities for two shifts in total, with a six week gap between the first and second. The length of the shift will be tailored to your working pattern and capacity. The purpose of the research is not to assess or audit your performance. No information about you will be reported back to managers at your own or any other organisation. I will provide information sheets for your place of work before I visit so that your patients and colleagues are aware that the REACT study is taking place. I will sit or stand somewhere out of the way to not interfere with your work. I will watch and take notes and ask questions periodically. Please ask me if you have any questions or concerns before, during or after the observation period. If you want me to stop observing or move to another location, you can ask me to do so at any time. If you, your colleagues or patients have any questions at any time, please ask me.

Reflective Templates

You will be asked to complete five reflective templates in the six weeks between the first and second interview and observation. The reflective templates are for you to record and reflect on your research activities. You can complete them at any time that is convenient for you after you have completed a research activity. When you complete the reflective templates depends on your activities. You can complete them when you like but you may want to aim to complete one per week. The reflective templates are short, but you can write as much or as little as you like. It should take around five to two minutes to write each one.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

If you decide to participate in the study, the main disadvantage to you may involve the time taken to be interviewed, observed and complete the reflective templates. I understand that there are many demands on your time and there is some inconvenience in taking part.

I will not ask you to change anything about the way you work. You do not have to take part if you do not want to.

There is a small chance that talking about your research activities could cause feelings of distress. However, in other studies similar to the REACT study, there have been no reported concerns. If you feel distressed during the interview or observations we will stop and you will be supported. If you feel distressed after the interview or observations or while completing the reflective templates, you can contact the following organisations for free:

- <https://giveusashout.org/> or text 'SHOUT' to 85258 (24/7 service)
- <https://www.frontline19.com/>

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There may not be direct personal benefits to you from this study. However, some people enjoy talking about their work and knowing that it will help further our understanding of the research activities of advanced practitioners. Please let me know if you would like to receive information about the findings and be kept updated about the study.

The data collection methods will include the use of reflective templates, which may help provide you with evidence when revalidating or renewing with your professional body.

Will what I say in this study be kept confidential?

Your personal information will be kept confidential in a separate file on the Oxford Brookes University secure cloud system. The transcripts of the interviews, field notes of observations and reflective templates will be pseudonymised and de-identified. Your name and any people, places and organisations you mention will be removed to make sure you are not identifiable in any resulting publication, presentation or report. Personal/identifiable and pseudonymised/de-identified information will be kept in separate files on the Oxford Brookes University secure cloud system. Recordings, field notes and reflective templates will be deleted at the end of the project.

However, there are limits to confidentiality. For example, if I were to observe anything that could put anyone at risk of harm or unsafe practice, I may have to inform a relevant person. If this were necessary, I would discuss it with you and tell you what I was going to do. The chance of this happening is very low.

It is possible, but highly unlikely, that if your experiences are unique and someone who knows you very well were to read a publication or listen to a presentation, they may be able to identify you. The chance of this happening is very low.

Because I will be observing your research activities, the people you interact with while I am present will know that you are participating in research.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The study's results will be used for fulfilment of a Professional Doctorate in Nursing and used in the resulting thesis. The aim is to publish the research in academic journals and present it at conferences where pseudonymised and de-identified quotes.

Please let me know if you want to know about the study results.

Who is organising and funding the research?

I am conducting the research as a student at Oxford Brookes University in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. No funding for the research is being received.

Who has reviewed the study?

The research has been approved by the University Research Ethics Committee, Oxford Brookes University.

Contact for Further Information

If you have any concerns about how the study has been conducted, please contact the Chair of the University Research Ethics Committee via email ethics@brookes.ac.uk.

What should I do if I want to take part?

If you would like to take part, please email me at carley.moore@brookes.ac.uk.

Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet.

Date

March 2024