Participant information sheet

Project Title: Online simulations of General Practice cases to support healthcare professionals in managing uncertainty: a qualitative study

Thank you for considering to take part in this study, **funded by the Policy Research Unit in Cancer Awareness, Prevention and Early Diagnosis.**

We would like to invite Physician Associates both qualified and during their training to participate in this research project.

Please discuss the information below with others if you wish, or ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

Details of Study

What is the purpose of the study?

This research seeks to explore clinical reasoning and uncertainty management strategies of Physician Associates (PAs) using eCREST. eCREST was developed by a multidisciplinary team including UCL medical school tutors, GP registrars, health psychologists and experts in public health; with input from medical students, experts in medical education, primary care diagnostics and health care evaluation. ECREST simulates real consultations between a junior doctor and a patient in General Practice, in which the 'patients' are presenting to their GP with respiratory or related symptoms. The study will aim to understand how PA think, feel and behave throughout a simulated consultation with a patient and the value of adapting cases for use in an Emergency Department context.

Why is it important?

The reason this study is being conducted is to address the need for the development of more specific training on clinical reasoning and uncertainty management. Clinical reasoning refers to the thought processes you use to make clinical decisions, such as making a diagnosis and a management plan. Training on clinical reasoning is being increasingly recognised as essential in reducing diagnostic errors, which affect around 5-10% of patients, and can have devastating consequences for patients (Graber et al., 2005; Singh et al., 2013). Additionally, the way in which clinicians navigate uncertain patient consultations is important to understand so that appropriate support can be provided where needed.

What do I have to do?

Should you wish to take part you can contact me (Emily Parker) via email or telephone: ll14eep@leeds.ac.uk or 07882326446. The study will take place at a convenient time for you and once this is agreed between us, you will be sent a Microsoft teams invitation for the agreed time. Prior to taking part in the study you will be asked to confirm over email that you are eligible to take part by specifying how much emergency department experience you have.

All participants register to take part in the study which requires providing your name, email address, date of birth, and creating a username and password.

You will then access eCREST and at the chosen study time, share your screen with the researchers whilst completing one patient case. Throughout the patient case you will have opportunity to ask 'patients'

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questions using a drop down menu and receive their patient history. You will also be asked at several points throughout the consultation to provide a differential diagnosis and management plan. At the end of the case you will be provided feedback on how a GP and GP Registrar would have managed the case and ask you to complete the 'My Learning' page.

Whilst completing the case, you will think aloud constantly by saying everything that goes through your mind when using eCREST. For example, you might want to explain why you are asking the patient a question or why you are selecting each diagnosis. Don't try to plan what you're going to say, try and pretend that you're alone and forget the researcher is present. Try not to worry about what you're saying or doing in the case, as the intention is not to assess your performance in any way, it is more about understanding what is going through your mind when you use eCREST. I won't be able to respond to any questions you ask during the task but feel free to verbalise these questions.

It's very important that you keep talking. There will be points in the case when you are watching videos, reading or writing, and will need to attend to this information, so you may be silent for a few seconds. This is fine, but if you can, try and read it out loud and speak while you type. If you're silent for a long period, you will be prompted to talk. Once you've finished the patient case, looked at the feedback and completed the 'My Learning' page, the task will be completed. After this you will be asked a few questions which follow-up on some the comments you made in eCREST and also offer your views on the value of using online tools such as eCREST for Emergency Department contexts, drawing on your experience in Emergency Department settings. You can also ask me any questions you may have. This whole process should take no longer than 1 hour.

Please note that participation in the study is voluntary and you should not feel pressured to participate if you do not wish to. You will not be affected in any way if you decide you do not want to participate.

What happens next?

If you are willing to take part in the study, please contact me (Emily Parker) at ll14eep@leeds.ac.uk. The study will take place within your designated training time and once this is agreed between you and the researcher, you will be sent a Microsoft teams invitation for the agreed time. You will be asked to register on eCREST where you will be able to view the consent form and information sheet for the study.

Will anyone else (e.g. my tutors/ colleagues) see my scores/performance?

No. Only the researchers will have access to this data. All data will be kept confidential unless they relate to serious concerns about professional practice or the health of individuals. Your data will only be used for research purposes and it will not be used as an assessment, or shared with any third parties. You have the option however of printing all your responses as a pdf for your own record and/or to store in your e-portfolio.

All data will be controlled and managed by a research team at UCL, Department of Applied Health Research. Their contact details can be found at the bottom of this page.

Risks and benefits

We don't anticipate there to be any risks by participating. The research team for this study have conducted think aloud studies with medical students previously, with no negative effects.

Participating in this research will give you the chance to practise making diagnostic decisions and apply your respiratory knowledge and General Practice training. You will also have free access to eCREST following completion should you wish to continue using it.

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You will receive a £20 Amazon gift voucher after taking part in the study.

Data handling and confidentiality

Your data will be processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act (2018), *'data protection legislation'.*

- All data will be collected and stored in accordance with data protection legislation.
- Data will be stored in a secure online storage repository.
- Downloaded data will be stored in password protected computers for analysis.
- We will collect some personal information such as your name and email address when you register to take part in the study but your data will then be anonymised and only the researchers at UCL will have access to this data. We may use some of the things you write in the free text responses as quotes but these will also be anonymised, with any identifying comments removed.
- Your personal data (email, name) will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. All other anonymised data you provide will be retained for a minimum of ten years after publication or public release according to the UCL Research Data Policy (p.3).

Data protection privacy notice

Notice:
The controller for this project will be University College London (UCL). The UCL Data Protection Officer provides oversight of UCL activities involving the processing of personal data, and can be contacted at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk

This 'local' privacy notice sets out the information that applies to this particular study. Further information on how UCL uses participant information can be found in our 'general' privacy notice:

For participants in health and care research studies, click here

The information that is required to be provided to participants under data protection legislation (GDPR and DPA 2018) is provided across both the 'local' and 'general' privacy notices.

The lawful basis that will be used to process your personal data is: 'Public task' for personal data.

Your personal data will be processed so long as it is required for the research project. If we are able to anonymise or pseudonymise the personal data you provide we will undertake this, and will endeavour to minimise the processing of personal data wherever possible.

If you are concerned about how your personal data is being processed, or if you would like to contact us about your rights, please contact UCL in the first instance at data-protection@ucl.ac.uk.

If you remain unsatisfied, you may wish to contact the ICO. Contact details, and further details of data subject rights, are available on the ICO website at: https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/data-protection-reform/overview-of-the-gdpr/individuals-rights/

What if I change my mind about taking part in the study?

It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. If you do decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

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If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally-identifiable information possible. You will need to agree to the following consent statements before taking part but only once you have agreed to take part.

Consent

- I consent to take part in the study and confirm that I am over the age of 18 and understand what is required of me in this study.
- I consent to being recorded and understand that these recordings will be stored securely and destroyed after analysis is completed.
- I agree to being quoted anonymously in the results.
- I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason until data has been anonymised (approximately two weeks after you take part).
- I understand that any personal information will be treated as strictly confidential and handled in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.
- I agree that the research project named above has been explained to me to my satisfaction.

I agree (this study only) ☐

I agree (retain my anonymised data for related studies and in accordance to UCL Research Data Policy) ☐

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the:

Student researcher: Emily Parker, School of Psychology, University of Leeds, Woodhouse, Leeds LS2 9JT, Tel. 07882326446
The staff researcher: Dr. Ruth Plackett; Department of Applied Health Research University College London 1-19 Torrington Place London WC1E 6BT; Tel. 020 3108 3242; ruth.plackett.15@ucl.ac.uk; Dr Angelos Kassianos; Department of Applied Health Research University College London 1-19 Torrington Place London WC1E 6BT; angelos.kassianos@ucl.ac.uk; Tel. 020 7679 3291.
If these are not addressed by the researchers please contact The Chair (Academic Services): UCL Gower Street London WC1E 6BT; ethics@ucl.ac.uk.

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this study

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