

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET **READY PARAMEDICS CONSENSUS EXERCISE**

STUDY TITLE: READY Paramedics: A rapid realist review of paramedics working in general practice.

You are invited to take part in an online Consensus Event (group meeting) which is part of the READY Paramedics study, based at the University of the West of England. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important that you know why the study is being carried out and what it will involve.

Please read the information below carefully and if you need more information please contact Dr Sarah Voss by phone (0117 328 8906) or e-mail (sarah.voss@uwe.ac.uk). Centre for Health and Clinical Research, The University of the West of England, Bristol Glenside Campus (1H14), Blackberry Hill, Bristol, BS16 1DD. Alternatively you can contact Dr Matthew Booker (matthew.booker@bristol.ac.uk).

WHAT IS THIS STUDY ABOUT?

General Practitioner (GP) services are under increasing pressure with growing demand, made worse by a lack of GPs. Paramedics are increasingly being used alongside GPs to address these shortages. Paramedics may be asked to take on different roles for example, manage minor illness, undertake home visits and provide same day 'urgent' consultations. However, there is significant variation in the types of condition and patients that paramedics are asked to see. While there are benefits to paramedics working in general practice, there are also potential drawbacks and there is a lack of evidence about the safety, clinical and cost effectiveness of paramedics working in general practice (PGP), and the different service models that exist.

Due to these differences, it is impossible to simply compare practices that employ paramedics with those that do not to see which patients get a better service and how much it costs. We are therefore using an approach called 'Realist Evaluation' to look at what works best for whom in different circumstances.

The aim of this study is to firstly carry out a rapid realist review to look at previous research on using paramedics in general practice to identify and describe the

different models of how paramedics are working in general practice in England. We will classify these models and produce a set of 'realist programme theories' which describe how the different PGP models work, with which resources and in which situations.

We will then test and refine these theories by interviewing key informants/system leaders and bringing together a group of people including professionals in general practice, those who commission services, researchers, and patients with experience of paramedics in general practice for a **Consensus Exercise**.

The information that is shared with us during the interviews and consensus exercise will help us prepare our questions and interviews for in depth case studies with general practices in the next stage of our evaluation.

WHY AM I BEING INVITED TO TAKE PART IN THIS STUDY?

You have been invited to take part in the **Consensus exercise** because you are a professional or a patient with knowledge and experience about paramedics working in general practice or primary care.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I AGREE TO TAKE PART IN THE CONSENSUS EXERCISE?

If you agree to take part, a member of the READY Paramedics study team, University of West of England, will contact you to make arrangements with you to attend the consensus exercise. The consensus exercise will take place online and our PPI coordinators will support patients with accessing the meeting if needs be. We expect that meeting will last about 2 hours with a break halfway through.

With your permission, we would like to audio-record the meeting to help us remember all that is said and discussed.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA STORAGE

All notes, documents, audio-recordings and information from the consensus exercise will be kept in the strictest confidence. Only members of the study team will have access

to the data. Your personally identifiable information will be stored separately from any notes, documents, transcripts and audio-recordings. You will not be personally identifiable from any reports or outputs from the research. Your personally identifiable information will be securely erased on completion of the study. De-identified study data will be stored for 5 years after the end of the study.

Meeting transcripts and written notes will be stored at the University of the West of England in a fireproof, lockable filing cabinet. Consent forms and identifiable information will be stored separately from study data. Hard copies of identifiable information will be destroyed when no longer required by the research team.

All electronic participant data will be stored on password protected, encrypted university computers. Any information we use to contact you will only be stored only for as long as is necessary, on University of West of England secure servers or password protected, encrypted laptops and USBs.

CAN I WITHDRAW FROM THE STUDY OR LEAVE THE CONSENSUS MEETING?

You can withdraw from the study and leave the consensus exercise at any time without giving a reason.

Your rights to access, change or move the information that you share during the consensus exercise are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways for the research to be reliable and accurate. This means that if you leave the consensus exercise it will not be possible to remove any contributions that you have already made to the group discussions, and your contributions will be used to prepare our questions and interviews for the in-depth case studies with general practices in the next stage of our evaluation.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible. Our full [research privacy notice](#) is enclosed with this Information Sheet. You can also find out more about how we use your information by contacting dataprotection@uwe.ac.uk.

WHO IS RUNNING THE STUDY?

This study is funded by the NIHR. The University of the West of England, Bristol, is the sponsor for this study based in the UK. We will use information you have provided to undertake this study and will act as the data controller for this study. This means that we are

responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of the West of England, Bristol, will keep identifiable information about you until the study has finished. This study has been designed by Dr Sarah Voss, a researcher from the University of West of England, Bristol and Dr Matthew Booker a GP and researcher from the University of Bristol.

Research ethics approval has been obtained from the University of West of England Research Ethics Committee. Reference: HAS.21.07.175.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE STUDY ENDS?

When the study ends, the research team will write up the information from the consensus event. The team may also publish the findings in journals read by other researchers, health professionals, patients, and policy makers. A copy of the findings will be made available on a publicly available website ([Realist evaluation: Paramedics in general practice \(READY Paramedics\) | Bristol Health Partners](#)).

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.