

Participant Information Sheet

Study title: Qualitative study on community pharmacists' perspectives of recommending herbal medicine in acute infections

Researcher name: Martin Logue
ERGO number: 46268
IRAS number: 259314

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

What is the research about?

A large percentage of human antibiotics are prescribed for uncomplicated respiratory tract infections (RTIs) and urinary tract infections (UTIs), although studies suggested that the marginal benefits are outweighed by increasing antibiotic resistance and common adverse reactions. Herbal medicines are potential alternatives with promising evidence on symptomatic relief in acute infections.

Patients already seek pharmacists' advice for symptom relief for acute infections, including the use of herbal medicines. We would like to explore the experiences and views of community pharmacists giving advice to patients on using herbal medicines in management of acute RTIs and UTIs.

The research is funded by the National Institute for Health Research, a Department of Health organisation that funds research relevant to the NHS. It is sponsored by University of Southampton, organised by our study team within the Faculty of Medicine, department of Primary Care and Population Sciences.

Why have I been asked to participate?

We will try to get a range of views by inviting pharmacists in different gender, years of work experience, types of pharmacy settings, and from different geographical regions. Therefore, we may not be able to interview everyone who is interested in taking part. You may have expressed an interest about the study and asked for more information, pharmacy leads of local pharmacy practice committee (LPC), clinical research network (CRN), or community pharmacy South Central (CPSC) may also have provided you with this information because they felt that you may be interested. We are aiming to recruit 20-25 community pharmacists into this study.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you are interested in participating, please email or phone Martin Logue using the details provided at the end of this document. Martin will explain the detailed study procedure to you. If you are suitable for the study, a one-hour interview will be arranged at a time and a place that is convenient to you.

On the day of the interview, the researcher will either go to visit the pharmacy, or phone you. For those who will be interviewed via telephone, consent questions will be read out over the phone, and verbal consent will be audio-recorded and stored securely. For those who will be interviewed face-to-face, written informed consent will be obtained prior to

joining the study during the interview visit. The interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed verbatim.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

A £40 thank you compensation will be offered to participants for their time contributed to the study. There will be no additional benefit from taking part, however, your participation will be helpful in improving current understanding and supporting further research into herbal treatment for acute infections.

Are there any risks involved?

The one-off interview will take approximately 45 minutes and is not intended to cause you distress or psychological discomfort. In case that you feel distressed during or after taking part in the study, you are reminded that there will be no sensitive question asked during the interview. You will be free to withdraw from the study at any time (during/after the interview, or at data analysis/presentation stage), without having to give a reason. You will also be encouraged to talk to Martin (07821 406531; martin.logue@soton.ac.uk) and Mio (023 8059 1786; X.Hu@soton.ac.uk) for assistance.

What data will be collected?

Martin will run a one-off face-to-face or telephone interview, during which your age and ethnicity will be collected. Personal data and consent forms will be kept separate from interview transcripts. To allow our research team to maintain contact with you, your contact details will be stored for the duration of the study.

Will my participation be confidential?

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential. The study will fully comply with the Data Protection Act and University policy on conducting research studies.

If you participated the interview face-to-face, written consent forms will be stored safely, separated from other in identifiable data. If you participated the interview through telephone, verbal consent will be collected, transcribed, and saved in a password protected computer.

You will be identified by an ID number and the information you provide will be stored with a password protected computer. All audio records will be destroyed as soon as they are transcribed. You will not be identifiable from any information you provide that is disseminated and will remain anonymous from other participants throughout this research study. The interview will be audio recorded and transcribed word by word. Your direct quote may be reported in research publications or conferences, but your name and other identifiable information will be removed. Only members of the research team will be aware of your identity.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form or give verbal consent to show you have agreed to take part.

What happens if I change my mind?

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. If you want to withdraw during the interview, we will retain interview data up to the point of withdrawal to protect the study's integrity.

What will happen to the results of the research?

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

Where can I get more information?

You can get further information about this research by contacting [Martin Logue; 07821 406531; martin.logue@soton.ac.uk].

What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

Data Protection Privacy Notice

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, 'Personal data' means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University's data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/Is/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Your age and ethnicity will be anonymised, and an identification number will be allocated to your data. Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University's policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason ('lawful basis') to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the 'Data Controller' for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your

information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep the research data for 10 years after the study has finished. Identifiable data will be destroyed less than 12 months after the study has completed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights - such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University's data protection webpage (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer (data.protection@soton.ac.uk).

Thank you for taking the time to read the information sheet and considering taking part in the research.