

Patient Information Sheet

Study Title: Does the quality of postpartum care match the needs of all its users? Evaluating care according to ethnicity. A service evaluation using postpartum readmission data in one O&G department (UHCW) and a qualitative study on patient experiences of maternity care in the West Midlands.

Researcher(s): Eugenia Afonso

Introduction

You have been invited to take part in a study. Before you decide, you need to understand why the study is being done and what it would involve for you.

Please do get in touch, or ask at any time, if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information about anything.

What is this study about?

This study is looking specifically at the quality and level of care women receive after giving birth in the West Midlands. The researcher is particularly interested in understanding the experiences of women from ethnic minority groups. You are being asked to share your experience of care after having a baby at any West Midlands hospital.

Do I have to take part?

Even if you have expressed an interest in taking part, and subsequently decided you do not want to take part, you can withdraw. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. The researcher can answer any queries. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to sign a consent form to confirm that you have agreed to take part. You will be free to withdraw from the study without giving reason. (Please see below for more information on withdrawing from the study).

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you are happy to take part, you will be sent a consent form to sign using the email that you contacted the researcher on. After this, a convenient time for you will be arranged via email correspondence for the interview. The interview will take place over Microsoft Teams. Full instructions will be made available on how to access this platform. The online interview should last for around 1 hour. **The interview will be audio-visual recorded and then what is said, will be typed up (transcribed).** Any personal information will be deleted, such as people's names. The recording will then be permanently deleted. Your contribution will then therefore be anonymous and untraceable.

What else do I need to know about the interview?

We please ask that you find a quiet, private space for the interview and ensure that the computers webcam will not show any personal belongings or identifying information (such as photographs, or anything that could give away your location). If you do not wish to appear on camera, you may turn off this function. The video function is being used solely to establish a comfortable interview environment.

What are the possible disadvantages, side effects, risks, and/or discomforts of taking part in this study?

If any of the topics we discuss during the interview distress you, please tell the researcher and your interview can be paused or ended. You do not have to answer all the questions. If the interview brings up issues about your maternity care that you want to discuss further, please discuss these with your GP or another health professional.

What are the possible benefits of taking part in this study?

Your experiences and comments will inform the care offered to women who give birth in hospital in Coventry and the West Midlands about what they do well and what they could do better. This will be helping better maternal care in the West Midlands in the future.

Expenses and payments?

Interviews will take place over Microsoft Teams. There will be no cost to you and there is no payment for taking part.

What will happen when the study ends?

Your interview answers will be analysed along with other interviews. The key points will be written into a report for UHCW and Warwick Medical School. Depending on the success of the study it may be presented at conferences or submitted for publication. At this stage it is too early to confirm this. It may be of interest to some independent organisations that advocate for women of an ethnic minority background.

Will my information be kept confidential?

Your information will be kept completely confidential. All information about you will be handled confidentially, and it will be anonymised meaning that your name will never be used. Some quotes from interviews may be used in reports and publications.

If you provide any information during the interview that suggests either you or anyone close to you may be at harm, then the researcher will be obliged to inform a suitable person.

Who will know that I took part?

Apart from initial recruitment and interview process with the Lead Researcher, once your information is anonymised it will not be possible to know who took part.

How do I withdraw from the study?

You can request to be withdrawn from the study by contacting the researcher. You do not have to give any reason for withdrawal unless you want to. The researcher will carry out your request as fully as possible. If you withdraw later than 3 days after the interview, it may not be possible to identify the data that belongs to you as it will have been anonymised (see more information below).

If I withdraw, will you keep my information?

If you decide to withdraw at any point – before, during or (up to three days) after the interview, you can do so. The researcher will destroy your information. If, however, you request to be withdrawn after the recordings have been deleted and the information has been anonymised, it may not be possible to identify which information belongs to you. The anonymisation process is likely to happen three days after the interview.

Who is organising and funding the study?

The study is being organised as part of the researcher's undergraduate medical degree at Warwick University and has received no funding.

How do I give my consent?

If you are willing to participate in the study, the researcher has supplied you with a consent form. In order to give consent, please type your name in the signature section at the bottom of the form. You can then attach this form to an email and send it to the researcher at Eugenia.Afonso@warwick.ac.uk. The researcher will then go through this form and the consent form with you before any interview taking place to ensure you fully understand what is taking place.

Please ensure you read both forms carefully and contact the researcher with any queries.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any issues, please contact the Lead Researcher of the study:

Lead Researcher: Eugenia Afonso

Eugenia.Afonso@warwick.ac.uk

Who should I contact if I wish to make a complaint?

Please address any complaints to the department below, who are University of Warwick officials entirely independent of this study:

Head of Research Governance

University of Warwick

Tel: 024 76 522746

Email: researchgovernance@warwick.ac.uk

Who has given this study approval?

This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Warwick and Biomedical and Scientific Research Ethics Committee (BSREC): **PENDING APPROVAL**

What if I want more information about the study?

If you have any questions, queries or comments about any aspect of the study, or your participation in it, that is not answered by this participation information sheet, please contact:

Lead Researcher: Eugenia Afonso

Eugenia.Afonso@warwick.ac.uk

Academic Supervisor: Prof. Debra Bick

Debra.Bick@warwick.ac.uk

Support

If you are experiencing difficulties to discuss your care, or find that discussing your care has triggered difficulties, please see a registered health provider such as your GP in the first

[instance. There are also support organisations and networks that may be helpful for you. Here are a few local and national organisations that you may find useful.](#)

- [Anxiety UK](#) is an organisation run by with anxiety disorders, offering information, support and therapies for people experiencing anxiety.
- [BabyCentre offers a traumatic birth support group](#) where you can chat and share your experiences with others going through the same thing.
- [The Birth Trauma Association](#) (BTA) is a charity that supports women who suffer birth trauma – a shorthand term for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after birth.
- [British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy](#) (BACP) provides information for those who are considering some form of counselling. Call them on 01455 883316.
- [The Couple Connection](#) provides relationship advice and support.
- [MASIC](#) The MASIC Foundation supports women who have suffered serious injuries during childbirth.

- [MIND](#) is a mental health charity providing information, support, local groups and an online chatroom. They have specific information about postnatal depression and perinatal mental health, including postnatal PTSD and birth trauma.
- [No Panic](#) provides Online and telephone support for people suffering from panic attacks, phobias, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and anxiety disorders.

Thank you for taking the time to read this participant information leaflet.