Co-production of recommendations to improve the implementation of National Chlamydia Screening (NCSP policy within General Practice (GP) settings.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Contents

We are inviting you to take part in a workshop about the National Chlamydia Screening Program guidelines

- You are free to decide whether or not to take part in this study. If you choose not to take part, this will not affect your medical care or employment in any way.
- Please take time to read the following information carefully. Discuss it with friends and relatives if you wish. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.
- You can stop taking part in the study at any time, without giving a reason and without any consequences to you.
- Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.
- Thank you for reading this information. If you decide to take part, you will be given a copy of this information sheet and asked to provide consent electronically.

Important things that you need to know

This study involves taking part in a group discussion by video calling (e.g. over Microsoft Teams).

1 Why is this study being done?

In June 2021, Public Health England (PHE) announced changes to the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) policy The changes shifted the focus to reducing reproductive harm from untreated chlamydia in young women (formerly the aim was to reduce the prevalence of chlamydia through screening sexually active young men and women). In practice this means that chlamydia screening in community settings, such as General Practice and pharmacies, will be proactively offered only to young women. The changes followed

recommendations made by an external expert review of evidence to maximise the potential health benefits of chlamydia screening. Despite this policy change, chlamydia testing and diagnosis surveillance data show there has been little or no change in the number or proportion of young men being screened outside of sexual health services.

This study is being run to understand the barriers and enablers to implementing the policy change. A survey was used to help identify barriers and enablers to implementing the policy change, and the results of the survey will be discussed in a workshop with healthcare providers, members of the public, and other stakeholders, to produce a set of recommendations to improve implementation of the NCSP guidelines.

2 Why am I being asked to take part?

You are being asked to take part in this research because you may fit the profile of people we wish to speak to as part of the study.

3 What does taking part involve?

Can I definitely take part?

Not everyone will be able to take part in this study. We are selecting individuals based on various factors, including their role in providing opportunistic chlamydia screening, their eligibility to receive opportunistic chlamydia screening outside of sexual health services, their role in commissioning sexual health and primary care services, or their geographic location.

What will happen to me during the study?

You will be asked to take part in a group discussion which will be by video calling using Microsoft Teams. The group will be formed of people who are eligible for opportunistic screening under the National Chlamydia Screening Programme guidelines, clinicians who provide care, and people who decide how services are run. During the session we will ask you to work as a group to develop a set of recommendations to improve implementation of the updated NCSP guidelines and discuss how the recommendations could be communicated.

Will I get any compensation?

After the workshop, you will be offered a £75 voucher as a thank you for taking part in this study.

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

You may learn more about National Chlamydia Screening Programme. You may also find it interesting or helpful to talk about your experiences with our researchers. Although there will not be any direct benefits to you, you will be contributing to research that will improve sexual health services for people in your community.

5 What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We do not anticipate that any harm will come to people taking part in this research. You should consider whether you think the subject matter likely to come up in the workshop will be very upsetting for you. The risks of taking part in the workshop are mostly to do with negative thoughts or feelings you might have in regard to how the National Chlamydia Screening Programme is implemented.

If you mention that you or someone else is a risk of harm, we will encourage you to contact your GP or local safeguarding team. In some cases we may be required to break confidentiality and inform relevant organisations due to our duty of care.

6 More information about taking part

Do I have to take part in the study?

No, it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part, you will be asked to provide electronic consent before the interview starts. You will have the opportunity to discuss this study with the researcher before you consent and can withdraw at any time.

What will happen to information about me collected during the study?

As part of the study, we will collect information about you that could identify you, such as your name, email address and phone number. We will only use this information to contact you to arrange the workshop and will destroy it after four months. If you agree, we will also use your information to contact you about taking part in future studies you may be eligible for.

If you agree to take part in the workshop, the discussion will be audio and/or visually recorded. This recording will then be automatically transcribed, or written up word-for-word, by a specialist agency bound by the same confidentiality rules as the researcher. Any identifying names or places that you mention during the workshop will be changed to protect your confidentiality. If any quotes are taken from what you say we will not mention your name or attribute them to you in any way. The information will be analysed by the researchers and will be password protected for the duration of the study. The information that you share during the interview may be shared with researchers at University College London, but only after the transcript of the interview has been fully anonymised, meaning you cannot be identified from it. This transcript will be deleted after five years.

The information collected during the workshop may be useful in future research. Other researchers, including some who may be working outside England, may ask to use anonymised data collected during this study. If they do, this will be considered very carefully by researchers involved in this study, and independent scientists. We will follow all legal requirements to make sure that all information about you is treated appropriately and ethically, and that other researchers do so too. We will not consider data access requests from outside Europe.

More information on how UKHSA stores your information is available here: UKHSA privacy notice - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Can I stop taking part after I've joined the study?

You can stop taking part in this study at any time, without giving a reason and without any consequences to you. Please note that it will not be possible to remove any collected data that you provided during the workshop if you choose to leave. This is because it will be very difficult to redact your contributions from the recording and context may be lost if sections of the conversation are removed.

What will happen to the results of this study?

When the study is completed we will publish the results in an academic journal, so that other researchers can see them. We will also produce a set of recommendations that will be circulated to relevant stakeholders. You can ask us for a copy of any publication. Your identity and any personal details will be kept confidential. No named information about you will be published in any report of this study.

Who is organising and funding the study?

This study is organised by the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA). Funding comes from the National Institute of Health and Care Research (NIHR). This research is being conducted in partnership with University College London.

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed and approved by the UKHSA Research Ethics Committee (Ref: R&D 600). This review is to protect your safety, rights and well-being.

What if something goes wrong for me?

If you have any concerns about the way you have been approached or treated during the study, please contact Kate Folkard to discuss.

Email: Kate.Folkard@ukhsa.gov.uk

If you are harmed by taking part in the study, or if you are harmed because of someone's negligence, then you may be able to take legal action.

7 Contacts for further information

If you want further information about this study, please contact Kate Folkard

Email: Kate.Folkard@ukhsa.gov.uk

Thank you for taking the time to consider taking part in this study.