Prevention and Management of Caries in General Dental Practice

GDP Information Sheet – Survey of current practice and MIDAS database review

Title of Study: Understanding the systems, organisational, and patient barriers and facilitators to quality improvement in primary dental care: Prevention and management of dental caries in general dental practice.

Invitation

You are being invited to take part in a postal survey as part of the above named research project. In addition, a small number of GDPs who have completed the survey will be invited to take part in a dental case practice study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Do not hesitate to ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

As you know, vast numbers of children and adults in Scotland suffer from dental caries. In spite of several Scottish Government initiatives and the identification of effective clinical strategies to prevent and manage decay, caries are a persistent and widespread problem. This survey is part of a larger study that aims to identify the patient, dental practice, and system level factors that influence the successful delivery of recommended caries prevention and management. Study findings will help identify appropriate strategies to promote routine practices that will better support prevention and management of caries in future.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen at random from the complete list of NHS registered GDPs practicing in Scotland.

Do I have to take part?

No. If you do decide to take part, but later change your mind, you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason. To do so just contact Dr Anna Templeton, Study Research Fellow, using the contact details at the end of this information sheet. Any information gathered from you up until the point you withdraw will be retained and used in the study.

What will taking part involve?

If you are willing to participate, please complete the survey and return it in the enclosed Freepost envelope marked SURVEY. This should take no longer than 20 minutes.

In addition to the survey, we are requesting your permission to access your routinely collected treatment data from the Management Information Dental Accounting System (MIDAS) database and to link this data to your survey responses. Doing this will enable us to better understand how GDPs currently deliver care for managing or preventing caries and how different practice profiles, views and experiences influence the types of treatments delivered. If you are willing to allow us to include your MIDAS data in our review, please sign the enclosed consent form titled “Prevention and Management of Caries in General Dental Practice: GDP consent to MIDAS access” and return it.
in the Freepost envelope marked **CONSENT**. If you are not willing to permit access to your MIDAS data, please still return your survey as the information provided will be very valuable.

The confidentiality of your data is a prime consideration of this survey. All data will be securely stored at the Dundee Dental Education Centre, NHS Education for Scotland, and will be managed according to the 1998 Data Protection Act. Please be assured that all information you provide (survey and MIDAS) will be held in the strictest confidence, anonymised, and presented to others only in an aggregated form.

**What are the possible benefits or risks?**

Completing this survey will benefit you by helping to ensure that future guidance and recommendations are informed by the daily experience and expertise of practicing dentists.

If you believe you have been harmed in any way by taking part in this study, you have the right to pursue a complaint and seek any resulting compensation through the University of Dundee, who are acting as the research sponsor. Details about this are available from the study team.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

We will publish the results of this study in the academic and popular press, and present them at academic meetings of dentists and dental researchers. A summary will be published on the Scottish Dental website (www.scottishdental.org). The information will also be sent to NHS policy makers. You, your team members, and your patients will not be identified personally in any report or publication.

**Who is organising and funding the study?**

This study is being organised by NHS Education for Scotland in collaboration with a group of researchers from the Childsmile programme and the Universities of Dundee, Aberdeen, and Glasgow. Professor Jan Clarkson, University of Dundee, is the Chief Investigator.

This study is funded by the Chief Scientist Office, reference CZH/3/27. The funding for this study is used for necessary running expenses, including salaries of employed staff. No-one will receive any financial benefit from this research.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The Tayside Committee on Medical Research Ethics B, which is responsible for reviewing all proposals for medical research involving humans in Tayside, has examined the proposal and raised no objections to the medical ethics of this study. It is a requirement that, if requested, your records in this research be made available for review by monitors from the University of Dundee and the relevant NHS R&D office to assure research is properly conducted and the interests of those taking part are being adequately protected.

**Contact details for further information**

If you have any questions or would like any more information, please contact Dr Anna Templeton, Study Research Fellow, at the Prevention and Management of Caries in General Practice Study Office, Dundee Dental Education Centre, Frankland Building, Smalls Wynd, Dundee, DD1 4HN, 01382 740958, or e-mail to TRiaDS@nes.scot.nhs.uk.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet. Please be sure to keep this information sheet if you think you might take part in this study.