



Department
of Health &
Social Care

NIHR | National Institute
for Health Research

*From the Chief Medical Officer & Chief Scientific
Adviser
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By email to M.G.Semple@liverpool.ac.uk

27 March 2020

To:

General Practitioners

The Electronic Health Record System Suppliers (EMIS, TPP, Vision, & Microtest)

Dr Dave Roberts, Primary Care Lead NHS Digital

Re: Evaluation and refinement of pandemic influenza community assessment tools (FLU-CATs)

CPMS/CRN ID 12827, IRAS ID 30029, ISRCTN87130 MREC 05/MRE04/87

Dear Colleagues,

I am asking that you provide your fullest support for implementation of the **Evaluation and refinement of pandemic influenza community assessment tools (FLU-CATs)** in your organisation and the practices that you serve.

COVID-19 is a global threat to health for which we have no specific treatments. The FLU-CATs study collects depersonalised routine health care data from relevant GP consultations in England and Wales and uses this data in near realtime to refine and validate Community Assessment Tools. The study was commissioned by NIHR partly in response to concern from the Primary Care community that contemporary community-based evidence should underpin any plan to use triage tools to inform clinical decisions.

The FLU-CATs study has been designated an Urgent Public Health Research Study by the Department of Health and Social Care. It has the full support of the NIHR CRN and Health and Care Research Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Whitty', written in a cursive style.

Best wishes,

Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England & Chief Scientific Adviser,
Department of Health and Social Care