

Participant Information Sheet
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Title of Study: Evaluation of the Impact of Care Experience Prior to Undertaking NHS Funded Education and Training

Study ID – Impact of prior care experience

Name of Researcher(s): Professor Joanne Lymn, Ms Sarah Field-Richards, Professor Patrick Callaghan, Professor Helen Spiby, Professor Philip Keeley, Professor Sarah Redsell, Professor Sharon Andrew, Dr Gemma Stacey.

We would like to invite you to take part in our research study, which is funded by the Department of Health. Before you decide, we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you have any questions. Our contact details are on the last page of this information sheet.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the impact of care experience undertaken before starting NHS funded education and training, on pre-registration nursing students' caring skills, values and behaviours.

The findings of the research will help to inform and advise policy makers, the NHS, clinicians and educators about the effect and value of prior care experience on student nurses' skills, values and caring behaviours. It will help to identify the best model of providing this experience to people wishing to train as nurses, so that they can then deliver the best care to patients upon graduation and beyond. The study therefore has the potential to improve the education of nurses and the quality of care provided to people using health and social care services.

Why have I been invited?

You are being invited to take part because you are a student nurse who may or may not have had care experience before starting your nursing education and training. We are inviting 590 participants like you to take part.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time.

What will happen to me if I take part?

Taking part in the study involves completing six or seven questionnaires (depending on whether you have had prior care experience or not) relating to caring skills, values and

behaviours, at four time points over a four year period. The questionnaires will be the same at each time point but the first time you complete them, you will be asked to complete one additional demographic questionnaire. If you decide to participate, we will ask you to complete the questionnaires at the following time points:

1. In the first year of your course (now)
2. In year two of your course
3. In year three of your course
4. In the first three months after you graduate from University

We will send you an email at each time point inviting you to complete the questionnaires, which can be completed and returned online using links to Bristol Survey Online. These links will be included in each email that we send to you, at the time points above, asking you to complete the questionnaires. Alternatively you can request that the questionnaires be sent to you at your University by post, using the contact information on the last page of this booklet. They can then be returned to us using a stamped, addressed, envelope that we will include with the questionnaires.

As part of the study we will also access your academic record once during each year of your studies, to see how you are progressing with your course. This record is held by your University and includes your assignment and exam results, and clinical placement Ongoing Assessment Record. You would not personally need to provide us with your academic record as we can access it via your University.

By completing the questionnaires each time and emailing or posting them back to the research group, you indicate that you are happy to take part, therefore you will not have to sign a consent form to participate.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

We estimate that the questionnaires will take no more than a total of an hour to complete at each time point. The questionnaires will be provided as separate links so that you can complete one at a time, at a time convenient to you.

To be eligible to take part in the study, you must be a first year student nurse registered on a University nursing degree course. It does not matter whether you have had care experience before starting your training, or not.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

The information we get from your participation in this study may help us to understand more about the influence of any care experience undertaken before starting nurse training, upon student nurses' caring skills, values and behaviours. In turn, this can help to inform and advise policy makers, the NHS, clinicians and educators about the effect and value of prior care experience on student nurses' skills, values and caring behaviours. It will help to identify the best model of providing this experience to people wishing to train as nurses, so that they can then deliver the best care to patients upon graduation and beyond. The study therefore has the potential to improve the education of nurses and the quality of care provided to people using health and social care services.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions. The researchers' contact details are given at the end of this information sheet. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you should then contact the Research Ethics Committee Administrator, c/o The University of Nottingham, School of Medicine Education Centre, B Floor, Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre Campus, Nottingham University Hospitals, Nottingham, NG7 2UH. E-mail: louise.sabir@nottingham.ac.uk.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

We will follow ethical and legal practice and all information about you will be handled in confidence.

If you join the study, some parts of the data collected for the study will be looked at by authorised persons from the University of Nottingham who are organising the research. They may also be looked at by authorised people to check that the study is being carried out correctly. All will have a duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept **strictly confidential**, stored in a secure and locked office, and on a password protected database. Any information about you which leaves the institution will have your name and address removed (anonymised) and a unique code will be used so that you cannot be recognised from it.

Procedures for handling, processing, storage and destruction of study data meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. Your personal data (e.g. email address, telephone number) will be kept for up to 12 months after the end of the study so that we are able to contact you about the findings of the study (unless you advise us that you do not wish to be contacted). All other research data will be kept securely for 7 years. After this time your data will be disposed of securely. During this time all precautions will be taken by all those involved to maintain your confidentiality, only members of the research team will have access to your personal data.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time. However the information collected so far cannot be erased and may still be used in the project analysis. This is because once the data has been entered onto the secure computer system because it has been made anonymous and the data analyses draws together information provided by all participants it becomes impractical to extract and remove individual data from the system.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

The questionnaires will help the researchers to understand more about the influence of any care experience undertaken before starting nurse training, upon student nurses' caring skills, values and behaviours. The results of the research study will be written up as part of a report for the Department of Health, who are funding the research. They

will also be published in academic journals and presented at relevant conferences but you will not be identified in any reports, publications or presentations. A copy of the results can be obtained by contacting one of the researchers using the contact details at the end of this information sheet.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is being organised by the University of Nottingham and is being funded by the Department of Health

Who has reviewed the study?

All research in the University of Nottingham is looked at by independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the University of Nottingham Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee.

Further information and contact details

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