



## North West Multi-centre Research Ethics Committee

4 August 2004

Gateway House  
Piccadilly South  
Manchester  
M60 7LP

**Dr S Scobie**  
Survey Lead  
Healthcare Commission  
Finsbury Tower  
103-105 Bunhill Row  
LONDON  
EC1Y 8TG

Tel: 0161 237 2394  
Fax: 0161 237 2383  
Email: northwest.mrec@gmsa.nhs.uk

Dear Dr Scobie

**Full title of study:** Survey of emergency departments in acute NHS hospital trusts in England  
**REC reference number:** MREC 02/8/100  
**Protocol number:** N/A  
**Amendment number:** N/A  
**Original amendment date:** 25 June 2004  
**Modified amendment date:** 16 July 2004

The above modified amendment was reviewed by the Chairman of the North West Multi-Centre Research Ethics Committee.

### **Ethical opinion**

The original amendment requested approval for some minor changes to the questionnaire being used in the survey of Emergency Departments in acute NHS hospital trusts. These changes had been made following consultation with the Department of Health in order to compare the survey results on a year on year basis.

The Sub-Committee had been unhappy with the fact that previously-approved changes were now being changed back to their original form and further clarification had been requested as to how the information received from the Department of Health was deemed to be sufficient to overturn the justification for the earlier amendments. The number and frequency of changes to the questionnaire was also considered to be of concern.

The response provided to the North West MREC was considered to have satisfactorily addressed the earlier concerns.

The Chairman of the Committee present gave a favourable ethical opinion of the amendment on the basis described in the notice of amendment and supporting documentation.

### Approved documents

The documents reviewed and approved at the meeting were: -

- Letter of response from Dr Sarah Scobie, Survey Lead, Healthcare Commission – dated 16 July 2004
- Measuring Improvements in the Patient Experience – Healthcare Commission and the Department of Health - undated
- Letter from the North West MREC - unfavourable ethical opinion of original amendment – dated 15 July 2004
- Covering letter from Dr Reeves, Manager, Survey Advice Centre - dated 25/06/04
- Emergency Department Core Questions – version 6 - dated 25/06/04
- Emergency Department Question Bank – version 6 - dated 25/06/04
- Emergency Department Survey - First mailing letter – version 1 - dated 25/06/04
- Emergency Department Survey - First reminder letter – version 1 - dated 25/06/04
- Emergency Department Survey - Second reminder letter – version 1 - dated 25/06/04

### Site-specific issues

It was noted as part of the review that the amendment has no implications for the suitability of local investigators, sites or facilities. You are not required to obtain any further site-specific assessment, and there is no need to inform Local Research Ethics Committees of the amendment.

### Approval of host organisations

Local principal investigators or research collaborators should notify their host organisations of this amendment and check whether it affects local management approval of the research.

### Statement of compliance

The Committee is constituted in accordance with the Governance Arrangements for Research Ethics Committees (July 2001) and complies fully with the Standard Operating Procedures for Research Ethics Committees in the UK.

REC reference number: MREC 02/8/100 Please quote this number on all correspondence
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Yours sincerely

*C.A. Stokes*

**Cathie Stokes**  
**Committee Administrator**

**Copy to: -** Dr R Reeves, Manager, Survey Advice Centre, Picker Institute Europe,  
Head Office, King's Mead House, Oxpens Road, OXFORD, OX1 1RX