



National Research Ethics Service

North West Research Ethics Committee

NHS North West
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22 February 2008

Ms C Powell
Picker Institute Europe
King's Mead House
Oxpens Road
OXFORD
OX1 1RX

Dear Ms Powell

Study title: Survey of Emergency Departments in acute NHS hospital trusts in England
REC reference: MREC 02/8/100
Amendment number: Not stated
Amendment date: 1 February 2008

The above amendment was reviewed at the meeting of the Sub-Committee of the North West Research Ethics Committee held on 12 February 2008.

Ethical opinion

The amendment (1st February 2008) requested approval for the Emergency Department Survey that was last conducted in 2004, to be repeated in Spring/Summer 2008, using a revised questionnaire.

The Committee noted that the questionnaire had been revised following consultation with key stakeholders (i.e. the Department of Health and the Healthcare Commission) and following the findings from four focus groups that were undertaken with people who had recently visited A&E. The face validity of the questionnaire had been tested by undertaking 15 cognitive interviews with people who had recently attended A&E.

Finally, the amendment sought approval for a change in Chief Investigator – from Dr Sarah Scobie to Ms Caroline Powell. A copy of Ms Powell's CV had been submitted for review together with a signed copy of the declaration page of the NHS REC Application Form.

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

This Research Ethics Committee is an advisory committee to North West Strategic Health Authority

The National Research Ethics Service (NRES) represents the NRES Directorate within the National Patient Safety Agency and Research Ethics Committees in England

Approved documents

The documents reviewed and approved at the meeting were: -

- **Cover letter from Esther Howell, Research Associate, Picker Institute Europe dated 1 February 2008**
- **Notice of Substantial Amendment dated 1 February 2008**
- **CV for Caroline Powell**
- **NHS REC Application Form Part B Section 8 Declarations signed and dated 1 February 2008**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 Summary of Changes – version 2 dated 1 February 2008**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 Core Questionnaire – version 1 with tracked changes from 2004**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 Question Bank Questionnaire – version 1 with tracked changes from 2004**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 Core Questionnaire – version 8 dated 1 February 2008**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 Question Bank Questionnaire – version 9 dated 1 February 2008**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 First Mailing Letter – version 1 with tracked changes from 2004**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 Second Reminder Letter – version 1 with tracked changes from 2004**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 First Mailing Letter – version 2 dated 1 February 2008**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 First Reminder Letter – version 2 dated 1 February 2008**
- **Emergency Department Survey 2008 Second Reminder Letter – version 2 dated 1 February 2008**

Membership of the Committee

The members of the Committee who were present at the meeting are listed on the attached sheet.

R&D approval

All investigators and research collaborators in the NHS should notify the R&D office for the relevant NHS care organisation of this amendment and check whether it affects R&D 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.

MREC 02/8/100:

Please quote this number on all correspondence

Yours sincerely

C. Stokes

Cathie Stokes
Committee Co-ordinator

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Enclosure: - List of names and professions of members who were present at the meeting and those who submitted written comments

Copy to: - Esther Howell
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