Information for Patients about Research

During your visit to our hospitals and community health centres you may be asked if you or your relative would like to take part in one of the many research studies currently open within the Trust. This leaflet will tell you why we do research at our Trust and may help to answer some of the questions you may have.

Why we do research?

At Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust we undertake research such as clinical trials, so that we can increase our knowledge on the best ways for providing care for our patients now and in the future. It also gives our patients access to try new treatments that are being tested, should they wish.

Are there many research studies?

Many of our doctors, nurses and other health professionals are involved in research. At any one time there can be up to ninety or more research studies happening within the Trust, for example in cancer, stroke, heart disease, infection, children and women's health.

Will I be invited to take part in a research study?

At one of your hospital visits you may be asked by a doctor, nurse, or by an independent researcher if you would like to take part in a research study, if you are eligible.

The person may be someone you have not seen before as part of your clinical care but will usually be introduced to you by someone you are familiar with.

What will my involvement in a research study mean?

Every research study is different. Before making any decision about taking part you must be told exactly what it will involve. Every study will have will have a Patient Information Sheet. This will tell you the name of the study, information about why the study is being done, what it involves if you take part and provide contact details for those doing the study. Someone, either your doctor, a research nurse or an independent researcher will also help to explain the study to you and give you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. You can usually ask there and then or go away and think about it and contact them later. You will not be included in ANY study without your prior written consent.

How will being in a study affect my care?

Each research study is different. For example, being involved in one study may mean you have to take an extra tablet, whilst being involved in another may mean simply telling somebody how you feel about the care you have experienced.

After a study has been fully explained to you and you have had an opportunity to ask questions, you can decide whether you wish to take part in the study or not. It is your decision.

You are under no obligation to take part if you do not want to and it will not affect your current standard of care in any way. If you would like to be involved, you will be asked to sign a consent form.

Always ask questions if you are unsure about anything, our team is here to help you.

Who can I speak to if I am unsure about any aspect of a research study?

You will be given the name and telephone number of a person linked to the study if you are unsure about anything on the patient information sheet. They should be able to answer any questions you may have at any stage of the research.

What happens if I change my mind about being in a research study?

You are free to change your mind about being in a study at any time. You do not have to give a reason why you have changed your mind and it will not affect the care you receive now or in the future.

What will happen if I no longer want to be part of a research study?

If you do not want to take part in a research study, just say 'no' and you do not have to give a reason. It will not affect the standard of care you receive at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust in any way, either now or in the future.

Will my GP be involved?

We encourage you to discuss your participation in a study with your GP. When you enter into a study, you may be asked to sign a medical release form so that your medical information may be shared between your GP and the researcher. This flow of information will help to provide valuable information in the level of care you receive and allows for medication outside of the study to be prescribed by your GP if necessary.

What does the Trust do to ensure that the research conducted is necessary and patients are protected?

Before any research begins and before any patients are approached to take part at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust, the study must be checked and approved by the Trust's Research and Development Department and a NHS Research Ethics Committee. This review will assess the safety of the study and ensure that it follows all the required legal and national standards in the conduct of research. The Trust also monitors the conduct of research trials and as part of this monitoring you may be asked about how you feel you have been treated in the research study.

All research information is kept confidential, safe and in a secure environment. The Trust is legally required to comply with all Data Protection and GDPR laws.

I have further questions

If you would like to ask any further questions about a specific research study, or about the kind of research undertaken within the Trust, you can ask your doctor or health professional at your next visit, or you can contact us below:

Research and Development Department
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary
Huddersfield
HD3 3EA
Tel: 01484 343396

You can also visit the Trust website research pages: https://www.cht.nhs.uk/about-us/

Follow on twitter: @CHFTResearch

Making the Decision

It is important that patients are well informed and feel confident and secure about participating.

Before deciding to participate, you should talk with your own doctors, family members, and clinical staff. We have listed some questions to ask below that might help before you make your decision:

What is the purpose of the study?
What is required of me?
What is my role in the study- am I a healthy volunteer or a patient volunteer?
Will the study directly benefit me?
Will the study benefit others?
Are there risks? If so, what are they and what are the chances that they will occur?
What discomforts are involved?
How will my care differ if I am part of the research study?
Will the research involve any additional tests, and if so, how many and for how long?
What if any, equipment will be fitted to me?
Will I have to take any extra tablets, or have more injections or blood tests
What if I change my mind?
What is the total time involved?
How many extra visits will I need to make?
Are there other inconveniences?
Will I receive any payment?
Will my taking part affect my family/friends/carers?
How long do I have to make a decision?

Have I discussed participation in the study with those who are important to me, such as family/friends/carers?
Do I wish to participate in this study?

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Patient Information about Research

A guide for patients and their carers

compassionate care