

# **Reducing irrational antibiotic use among children with upper respiratory infections (URIs) in Guangxi**

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## **Participant Information Sheet (PIS) for parents/caregivers – Focus group**

### **Background to the research study**

Antibiotics are sometimes used when they are not needed, in rural areas of China. This causes bacteria to become more resistant to antibiotics, and serious infections are more difficult for doctors to treat effectively. One way to reduce resistance is to stop using unnecessary antibiotics for minor illnesses (such as self-limiting viral infections in children).

An intervention has been designed to reduce unnecessary antibiotic use in rural Guangxi (for example, for minor childhood upper respiratory viral infections). The intervention aims to reduce unnecessary antibiotics given by doctors, and educate parents and caregivers on minor self-limiting childhood viral illnesses. The intervention gives doctors up-to-date guidelines on antibiotics, training, and support. Parents and caregivers of children are given information leaflets, and videos about antibiotics and minor illnesses in childhood are available to watch in waiting areas.

### **Who is conducting the research?**

The research is led by Global Health Research and Development (GHRD), China. Technical support is provided by Leeds University, UK.

### **Why have I been invited to take part in an interview?**

A researcher has invited you to be part of a focus group discussion because your child was treated for an upper respiratory infection in the township hospital recently.

### **What am I being asked to do?**

We would like you to join a discussion about patient and caregiver experiences of their child's recent hospital visit. The discussion will be in a small group with other parents and caregivers, and a researcher. Your views are important to us, and will help our efforts to reduce unnecessary prescribing of antibiotics. The focus group discussion will last about

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30-40 minutes, and will be audio-recorded. The decision to participate is yours, and will not affect the care your child receives in any way. Before starting the focus group, a researcher will ask for your signed consent/ agreement to participate. If you change your mind during the focus group, your decision will be respected. Your contribution up to that point will remain (since it is a part of the audio-recording), but the researcher will facilitate your exit from the group and from any further discussions. Your participation is entirely voluntary; you will not receive payment for the being in the focus group.

### **What will happen to the information I give?**

All information collected during the focus group will be used for research purposes, to improve efforts to stop antibiotic resistance. We will not share any information that could identify you outside the research team: all identifying information will be kept securely locked away by the research team, and any quotes from the focus group which are used in research reports will not contain information that could identify you.

### **Who has approved the research?**

The study has been approved by the Guangxi Centre for Disease Control Ethical Review Board and the University of Leeds School of Medicine Research Ethics Committee.

### **Who has paid for the research?**

This project has been funded by Department for International Development (DFID), as part of the COMDIS-HSD consortium of the University of Leeds, UK.

### **What should I do if I have more questions?**

Please talk to the researcher who gave you this form if you have any questions. If you have any further questions about this study, please contact Prof. Wei Xiaolin, the principal investigator of the project, by phone 0755-22250390 or by Email at [xiaolinwei@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:xiaolinwei@cuhk.edu.hk). Or contact Guangxi CDC Dr. Mei Lin by phone 0771-5300561.

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### Consent Form for parent/ caregiver – Focus group

- The purpose of the focus group has been explained to me.
- I consent to take part in a focus group about my child's recent hospital visit.
- I consent for the focus group to be audio-recorded.
- My participation is completely voluntary. I understand that I am free to leave the focus group at any time, however my contribution up to that point would remain as part of the group's audio-recording.
- None of my experiences or thoughts will be shared anyone outside of this study unless all identifying information is removed first.

Participant's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Researcher's signature: \_\_\_\_\_