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22/02/2016

Dear

My name is Andrew Sturrock; I am a Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice at the University of Sunderland. I am writing to you as an invitation to take part in a research project that I am running in conjunction with Scott Wilkes, Professor of General Practice and Primary Care.

Please find enclosed the participant information sheet, outlining the background to the study and what is required of participants.

If you would like to take part in the study please contact me via email or telephone at the above address.

Yours faithfully

Andrew Sturrock

Senior Lecturer – Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Therapeutics

Participant Information Sheet

Study Title

Attitudes and perceptions of GPs and community pharmacists towards their role in the prevention of bisphosphonate-related osteonecrosis of the jaw. A qualitative study in the UK.

What is the purpose of this study?

- To explore the attitudes and perceptions of general medical practitioners and community pharmacists, on the risks of osteonecrosis of the jaw associated with bisphosphonate treatment.
- To explore the attitudes and perceptions towards patient counselling and referral to a dental professional, by general medical practitioners and community pharmacists, for both newly started and established bisphosphonate patients.
- To explore any perceived barriers or enablers to optimising management of this patient group.

Why have I been approached?

You have been approached to participate in this study as a general medical practitioner or community pharmacist.

Do I have to take part?

No, participation in this study is entirely voluntary and the decision to take part is completely yours. You can withdraw from the study without giving reasons at any time before, during, or up to 7 days after taking part in the interview.

To withdraw from the study contact the principal investigator via the contact details below. You will not be required to give an explanation for withdrawing from the study.

What happens to me if I take part?

Participation in the study will involve an interview, lasting approximately 30-60 minutes. The researcher will ask you a series of questions from which there is absolutely no right or wrong answer. Your answers to these questions may lead to further discussion around any point or topics raised. The interview will be audio recorded by the researcher and transcribed for analysis.

What if something goes wrong?

If you have any concerns around the study please contact the principle investigator, Andrew Sturrock.

Any further concerns can be directed to the Chairperson of the University of Sunderland Research Ethics Committee. Contact details are included at the end of this document.

Will my taking part be kept confidential?

Participation in this study will be kept confidential. No personally identifiable information will be included in any write up or publication.

A list of participants, signed consent forms, audio recordings and transcripts will be stored securely by the principle investigator for a period of up to 5 years. Access will be restricted to the principal investigator, supervisor and persons authorised by the University for Quality Assurance purposes.

What happens to the results?

Finding from the study will be written up as part of a research project at the University of Sunderland. It is anticipated that finding will also be published in peer reviewed journals or presented at conferences.

The report and any published work will be made available to participants by contacting the principle investigator.

Who is organising and funding the research?

The research is organised by Andrew Sturrock, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Therapeutics at the University of Sunderland, Department of Pharmacy, Health and Wellbeing.

This project is not externally funded.

Who has reviewed the study?

This project has been reviewed by the Subcommittee for Faculty of Applied Sciences, Pharmacy, Health and Wellbeing, of the University of Sunderland Research Ethic Committee.

Contact for further information

- Mr Andrew Sturrock
Principal Investigator
Senior Lecturer – Pharmacy Practice and Clinical Therapeutics, University of Sunderland
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Phone: 0191 515 2448
- Professor Scott Wilkes
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- Dr Etta Evans
Chairperson of the University of Sunderland Research Ethics Committee
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