

Fathers attending the birth and immediate care of their baby

Phase three information leaflet

Introduction

My name is Merryl Harvey; I am a neonatal nurse lecturer and I also have a part-time research nurse post at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit in Oxford. This research nurse post is funded by the newborn baby charity BLISS. I am studying for a post-graduate degree at Aston University, which involves me carrying out a research study, and I would be grateful for your help.

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important that you understand why the study is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read this information sheet and to decide if you would like to take part in this study. Please let me know if you would like more information about the study.

What is the study about?

Although it is quite usual nowadays for fathers in this country to attend the delivery of their baby, there is limited published evidence regarding the affect that childbirth has on fathers. This is especially the case when a baby requires resuscitation at birth and is then admitted to a neonatal unit. The aim of this study is to identify the experiences and perceptions of health care professionals supporting fathers around the time of the delivery of a compromised baby.

Why have I been asked to take part?

I am hoping to recruit approximately 40 health care professionals who have experience of supporting fathers of babies requiring resuscitation at birth and / or admission to a neonatal unit. I understand that you are part of this group. This leaflet is being given to you now to give you time to think about taking part in the study.

Do I have to take part?

Involvement in this study is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide if you want to take part. If you would like to participate, you will be asked to sign a consent form and you will be given a copy to keep. If you decide to take part you can still withdraw from the study at any time without having to give a reason without being discriminated against in any way.

What will happen if I agree to take part?

I would like to interview you about your experiences supporting fathers of babies requiring resuscitation at birth and / or admission to a neonatal unit. This interview will be tape-recorded and this will enable me to compare what health care professionals have to say. The interview will be as informal as possible; it will take place in a mutually agreeable location and will last approximately 45 minutes. You will not incur any costs or be paid any money to take part in the study. Findings from this part of the study may be used to develop a questionnaire that could be sent to a larger sample of health care professionals.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

It is possible that you might become upset whilst talking about your experiences; therefore you are under no obligation to take part in this study. If you agree to take part in the study and then change your mind, you can withdraw from the study at any time. This includes before, during or after the interview.

Once the interview has been completed I can give you a list of places where you can get support, if you feel that you need it.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

It is hoped that information gained will provide a better understanding of issues relating to the provision of support to fathers around the time of complicated childbirth. It is anticipated that this new knowledge will enable the provision of care and health care professional education and support to be reviewed and if necessary developed.

Will my involvement in this study be kept confidential?

Your consent will be necessary before you take part in the study and any personal information such as your name will be kept strictly confidential. All documents and tapes from this study will be securely stored; these will not be available to anyone other than my research supervisor, the person transcribing the tapes (neither of whom will not have access to your name) and myself. The tapes and any documentation that identifies participants will be destroyed at the end of the study. None of your personal details will be included in any reports or publications arising from this study.

What if something goes wrong?

If you feel at any time that you have cause for complaint arising from this study, please let me know. In addition, the usual National Health Service staff complaints mechanisms are available to you.

What will happen at the end of the study?

I will be submitting my thesis, a copy of which will be held at Aston University library. The findings of this study will also be published in health care journals and presented at conferences. Your personal details will not be included in any of these.

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed and approved by Solihull Local Research Ethics Committee and XX Hospital Research and Development department.

Contact for further information

If after reading this you have any questions or need some further information, please contact me:

harveyme@aston.ac.uk

merryl.harvey@npeu.ox.ac.uk

National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit: 01865 289700

For further information regarding the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit or BLISS please see:

www.npeu.ox.ac.uk

www.bliss.org.uk

Whatever you decide, thank you taking the time to read this information leaflet.

Merryl E Harvey BLISS Neonatal Nurse Research Fellow

Fathers attending the birth and immediate care of their baby – phase three

Researcher: Meryll E Harvey, BLISS Neonatal Research Fellow
National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, University of Oxford

Please read and sign each statement in the presence of the researcher.

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the information leaflet (COREC-V1, MEH-V4 13-10-05) for the above named study and I have had the opportunity to discuss the study with the researcher.

2. I understand that my involvement in the study is voluntary and that I can withdraw from the study at any time, without giving any reason and without being discriminated against in any way.

3. I understand that my participation in the study will involve the researcher interviewing me about my experiences supporting fathers of babies requiring resuscitation at birth and / or admission to a neonatal unit, and that the interview will be tape-recorded.

4. I am aware that any personal details that could identify me will only be accessed by the researcher. These details and the tape recordings will be securely stored during the study and they will be destroyed when the study is completed.

5. Having signed all of the above, I agree to take part in the study.

-----	-----	-----
Name of participant	Date	Signature

-----	-----	-----
Name of researcher	Date	Signature