**UNIVERSITY OF HERTFORDSHIRE**

**ETHICS COMMITTEE FOR STUDIES INVOLVING THE USE OF HUMAN PARTICIPANTS**

**(‘ETHICS COMMITTEE’)**

**FORM EC6: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

1 **Title of study**

Current scope of practice of First Contact Practitioners and their management of persistent Rotator Cuff Related Shoulder Pain

2 **Introduction**

You are being invited to take part in a study. Before you decide whether to do so, it is important that you understand the study that is being undertaken and what your involvement will include. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Do not hesitate to ask us anything that is not clear or for any further information you would like to help you make your decision. Please do take your time to decide whether or not you wish to take part. The University’s regulation, UPR RE01, 'Studies Involving the Use of Human Participants' can be accessed via this link:

https://www.herts.ac.uk/about-us/governance/university-policies-and-regulations-uprs/uprs

(after accessing this website, scroll down to Letter S where you will find the regulation)

Thank you for reading this.

3 **What is the purpose of this study?**

To identify UK-based First-Contact Practitioners’ current scope of practice and the management of persistent RCRSP in primary care. This research is being undertaken as part of a Masters dissertation.

4 **Do I have to take part?**

It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part in this study. If you do decide to take part you will be asked to confirm that you have read this information leaflet and give your consent in the introduction section of the questionnaire before continuing. Agreeing to join the study does not mean that you have to complete it and you are free to withdraw at any stage without giving a reason. Should you complete and submit the questionnaire, it is not possible to withdraw your data as all responses are anonymised.

5 **How long will my part in the study take?**

If you decide to take part in this study, it will take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

6 **What will happen to me if I take part?**

Once you have given consent to participate in the study, you will continue to the online questionnaire consisting of multiple-choice and open questions. The initial section will consist of questions regarding your professional characteristics and job. The next section will be a combination of multiple-choice questions and open-questions about your management of patients with Rotator Cuff Related Shoulder Pain.

8 **What are the possible disadvantages, risks or side effects of taking part?**

There are no direct disadvantages, risks or side-effects from participation in the study.

The is an online questionnaire which is anonymous for all participants; only the researcher, research supervisor and educational technologist will have access to the data. The questionnaire is not designed to be a test, but a data collection tool to explore current trends in practice. It is possible that the questionnaire may elicit reflective thoughts and potential unease about individual’s own current practice/knowledge related to Rotator Cuff Related Shoulder Pain. All responses are anonymous and there is no time limit to complete the survey.

9 **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

You will receive no direct benefit from participating in this study. Participation in the study will help identify the current scope of practice of UK-based First-Contact Practitioners and give you the opportunity for self-reflection in your own management of patients with Rotator Cuff Related Shoulder Pain. The results of this study may be published and go on to inform future research / influence management of Rotator Cuff Related Shoulder Pain.

10 **How will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

All data collected will be anonymous and stored electronically in a password protected environment. Personal data collection will be minimal and will not be linked to individuals. All hardware will be kept in secure, locked premises when not in use.

11 **What will happen to the data collected within this study?**

The data collected will be stored anonymously for 36 months electronically on the University of Hertfordshire One Drive and will be password-protected years in accordance with the University of Hertfordshire data protection policy 2016 and the Data Protection Act 1998. Data will be destroyed under secure conditions.

13 **Will the data be required for use in further studies?**

There is currently no plan for the data to be used in future studies; however, by participating and submitting data, you consent that your data can be published

14 **Who has reviewed this study?**

This study has been reviewed by:

The research supervisor (Melinda Cairns) and The University of Hertfordshire Health, Science, Engineering and Technology Ethics Committee with Delegated Authority

The UH protocol number is HSK/PGT/UH/04950(1)

15 **Who can I contact if I have any questions?**

If you would like further information or would like to discuss any details personally, please get in touch with me, Austin Barker, by email: [Austin.barker@hotmail.com](mailto:Austin.barker@hotmail.com). Alternatively, you can contact my research supervisors Melinda Cairns on [m.cairns@herts.ac.uk](mailto:m.cairns@herts.ac.uk) or Caroline Coulthard on [researchercaroline@gmail.com](mailto:researchercaroline@gmail.com)

**Although we hope it is not the case, if you have any complaints or concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during the course of this study, please write to the University’s Secretary and Registrar at the following address:**

Secretary and Registrar

University of Hertfordshire

College Lane

Hatfield

Herts

AL10 9AB

**Thank you very much for reading this information and giving consideration to taking part in this study.**