**A N C A P**

**A**ntibiotic **N**egotiations**: C**onversation **A**nalytic **P**ilot

**We need Patient Representatives: Can you help?**

**What is the ANCAP research about?**

Many patients in primary care are being prescribed antibiotics to treat mild infections such as a colds, earaches and sore throats. Many of these are viral rather than bacterial infections that get better on their own and which can be treated with self-care (such as rest, fluids and mild pain killers). The overuse and misuse of antibiotics in primary care is an increasing national and global concern due to the increasing risk of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) (when bacteria becomes resistant to treatments leading to increased risks of illness lasting longer, increased symptom severity and even death). Current UK health guidelines and research is centred on ways to understand and improve how health care professionals prescribe antibiotics. **Research findings show that open and clear communication between GPs and patients is important in order for antibiotic prescribing to improve; but, there is a lack of evidence about what open/clear communication looks like and how it might be achieved in practice.**

The aim of **ANCAP** is to identify the key patterns in communication between GPs and patients as they discuss the need for antibiotics. We have access to video-recorded GP-patient consultations in order to study their communication. The overall findings from this research will be used to develop a communication tool which will teach GPs (in a step-by-step fashion) about the ways in which they can reduce prescribing antibiotics inappropriately (for example, effective communication strategies for providing reassurance to patients who have viral infections and do not need antibiotics).

Dr. Geraldine M. Leydon and Dr. Catherine J. Woods are the two main researchers on ANCAP and they work for the University of Southampton. They are primarily interested in understanding and improving healthcare communication between patients and healthcare providers so high quality care is delivered and received by all parties. ANCAP is one of a number of projects they are both working on in order to achieve this.

**Who can help with ANCAP research?**

We would like to hear your views of anytime you have visited your GP and the appointment involved a discussion about antibiotics. The discussion might have involved you receiving antibiotics, it might have involved you requesting antibiotics and not receiving them, and/or it might have involved your GP explaining why antibiotics were not appropriate for the health issue you presented to your GP.

On this occasion, we are only interested in adult patients (all over 18 years old), who discussed antibiotics for an illness/infection they had (rather than somebody else, such as a child), who do not need to take antibiotics on a weekly basis (some patients have to take antibiotics regularly due to problems with their immune system) and people who took antibiotics for an illness or suspected infection (rather somebody who may have taken antibiotics for a week after surgery). We also need people who can attend two half day meetings in Southampton (the dates and locations will be confirmed nearer the time depending on the group’s availability).

**What will I have to do if I decide to take part?**

We would like a small group of patients (between 3 – 5) to meet as a group and talk about GPs and patients as they discuss the need for antibiotics. We will play a couple of video-recorded consultations and will ask for your views about what is going on in regards to the patient (who may be asking the GP for antibiotics or presenting their symptoms) and GP (who may examining the patient or explaining why antibiotic are appropriate or inappropriate).

We would be very grateful for your views and opinions about our study and will pay for your time. Payment includes £50.00 (cash) and we will also reimburse your travel to and from the meeting in Southampton. We will provide tea and coffee and a selection of biscuits during the meeting.

**Contact details – please get in touch for a ‘no obligation’ chat about ANCAP and what participation would mean for you**

If you are interested in taking part in this study then please contact Dr. Catherine J. Woods who is one of the lead researchers on this study. You can do this by email (Catherine.Woods@soton.ac.uk) or telephone (023 8052 2285). Please leave your name and contact telephone number if Catherine does not pick up the telephone at the time of your call.

**Thank you very much indeed for taking the time to read this flyer.**