# The use of Patient-Held Information about Medication to support medicines optimisation (‘The PHIMed study’)

The PHIMed study is being carried out by University College London, School of Pharmacy. It aims to find out how patient-held information about medication (which we abbreviate to ‘PHIMed’) is used in practice, what helps and hinders its use, and what the important features are.

We are looking for three lay members (patients, carers and the public) to join our advisory group. Other members will include healthcare professionals with an interest in medication information and experience with different forms of PHIMed. Lay members will be equal partners in this group, bringing a patient and carer voice to the project, with their own unique views and experiences.

Summary of the PHIMed project

We know that when people move healthcare settings (such as from their own home to hospital), mistakes can occur communicating information about their medicines. We also know that many patients want to be more active partners in their healthcare. Although patients are increasingly able to access their GP medication records, these do not include over-the-counter or specialist medication, and are sometimes inaccurate.

Some patients use different types of PHIMed to help them remember their current medicines, and to show to healthcare professionals. This may be on paper or an electronic device, and may use formal documents from healthcare providers, commercially available “apps”, or documents created by patients themselves. However, we don’t know how PHIMed should be used, whether it improves patients’ health, or what the most important features are. Discussion with patients and carers within North West London suggests this is an important area for research.

We would therefore like to find out how PHIMed is used in practice, what helps and hinders its use, and what the important features are. We will then use the results to design a larger study where some patients are given PHIMed and some are not, so that we can find out whether it affects their health and wellbeing.

Our study will include patients with long term conditions, including some with carers (children, older people and people with learning disabilities), as well as healthcare professionals. The study has four parts:

1. First, we will directly interview 16 healthcare professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, opticians and dentists) and two group interviews each with 12 patients and carers. We will design these to examine participants’ views about the role of PHIMed, its important features, what helps and hinders its use, and any disadvantages to its use.

2. We will recruit 60 PHIMed users, including a mix of people who use paper and electronic PHIMed. We will ask them to talk through how they have used it in the last three months, who they have shown it to, and how healthcare professionals have responded. We will also ask about the important features and why they started using PHIMed.

3. We will create a list of the PHIMed tools used or available in the UK. We will describe how they work and which important features they have, based on those identified above.

4. Finally, we will draw together all the results to help us understand how information about medication is recorded, used and transferred among different people, documents and devices.

We will use the results to produce guidance for policy makers, healthcare professionals and the public about how they should use PHIMed. This will also help us design a larger study of the benefits of PHIMed. We will present the results at a conference and publish at least one research paper so that other researchers can build on our results.

## Role description for lay members of the advisory group

### Background

The advisory group aims to improve the quality of the PHIMed research study and make sure it works for patients and the public. The project will last 18 months

### Your responsibilities

* Attending advisory group meetings in London, held about every three months
* Reading an agenda and other brief paperwork, which we will email to you before the meeting
* Helping recruit research participants, if needed
* Commenting on other project materials by email
* Being involved in analysing and interpreting the research findings if you would like to, which would involve attending two additional meetings
* Signing a confidentiality agreement about the research data.

### How will you add value and how will you be supported?

* You will help to make sure that patients, carers and the public are influencing the research.
* You will get to know new people and develop skills and knowledge of how research projects run.
* You will work together with other lay members.

### What will we do?

* We will allocate a ‘buddy’ to you who will help you to get to know the project and give you guidance as needed.
* We will provide training for data analysis.
* We will ensure that meeting venues are suitable for all members, taking into account any individual requirements for accessibility.

### Payment and expenses

* We will pay you £75 for each meeting you attend, which will also include preparation time. We will reimburse you for any travel expenses, in line with our expenses policy. We will give you a claim form at meetings for these payments and pay you within 6 weeks.
* We will provide light refreshments at meetings.

### What skills and experience are we looking for?

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Experience** | Use of medication for one or more long term conditions, or being a family carer for someone who uses medication for one or more long-term conditions. | Experience of involving others in research or improvement activities.  Experience with healthcare in different settings (for example general practice, hospital) |
| **Knowledge** | No specific knowledge required as an essential attribute | Knowledge of tools that patients can use to carry information about their medicines, for example smartphone apps or paper based tools.  Knowledge of networks for recruiting research participants |
| **Skills** | Use of email to communicate  Ability to contribute to meetings in a collaborative and constructive manner |  |
| **Personal qualities** | Being comfortable listening, sharing and expressing views within a meeting. | Able to draw on the views of your networks in the diverse population of North West London, as well as speaking from your own experience |

### Contact details

* If you would like more information about this role please contact Professor Bryony Dean Franklin ([bryony.dean@nhs.net](mailto:bryony.dean@nhs.net)) or Dr Sara Garfield ([sara.garfield@nhs.net](mailto:sara.garfield@nhs.net))
* If you would like more information about being involved with research projects you can contact INVOLVE <http://www.invo.org.uk>

### Closing date for applications

* Monday 2 October 2017

## Application form

If you are interested in applying, please fill out this short application form and return it to [sara.garfield@nhs.net](mailto:sara.garfield@nhs.net) by 9am on **Monday 2 October 2017**. Please contact us if you would like a paper copy of the application form to be sent to you instead.

Name …………………………………………………………………………..

Address ………………………………………………………………………

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Email address………………………………………………………………..

1. Which best describes you: [delete as applicable]

a. A patient or previously a patient YES/NO

b. A carer or previously a carer for a person with health needs YES/NO

c. Other, please explain …………………………………………………..

1. Please summarise your interest in this project and tell us about the relevant experience, skills and personal qualities that you bring, relating to those we have specified (maximum 300 words).

Thank you very much for your interest and time. Please hold the afternoon of 18 October 2017 in your diary for a short face-to-face interview at Charing Cross Hospital We will let you know if you have an interview by Monday 9 October 2017.

Sara Garfield, Anna Lawrence-Jones and Bryony Dean Franklin 07.09.17