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**Are you interested in being a public advisor for a research study about pain experienced during wound dressing changes?**

We are carrying out research to look at the ways that pain might be reduced during dressing changes for people who have chronic wounds in the UK. We would like people living with chronic wounds or carers of people with chronic wounds that require painful dressing changes to help us with our research. We would like you to join a public advisory group to give advice throughout the study.

**Who do we want to join the advisory group?**

We are looking for members of the public who either have a chronic wound and experience pain during changes of dressing, or people who care for those with chronic wounds requiring painful dressing changes. Your experience might relate to ongoing conditions such as leg ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers, or pressure ulcers which require dressings to be changed. The study is particularly focused on people who experience pain during dressing change and how this might be reduced.

We try to get a mix of different types of people in the group in terms of age, gender and background, so younger people and ethnic minorities are particularly welcome, although we are looking for anybody with lived experience to apply.

This opportunity would be ideal for people who are new to a public advisory role, as it will be a chance to learn about different types of research and you are giving us input from your own lived experiences. Our public co-applicant will be able to mentor anybody new to public involvement in research.

**What will I be asked to do?**

You will join a public advisory group and come to online meetings. At the meetings we will ask for your thoughts and comments on the way that we are carrying out the study. We will ask for your help designing information for members of the public.

**How much time is needed?**

We are expecting that there will be two virtual group meetings in May and October this year, in February and July next year, and a final meeting in January 2023. These meetings will last around 1.5 hours. Towards the end of the study there may be the opportunity to help with producing summary materials and presentations/short videos etc. This is optional, and only if you would like to do it.

We will try to arrange meetings on days and at times which suit the majority of the group. We usually do doodle polls to select which slot is best for each meeting.

**Will I be paid?**

We offer payment for your time. This is usually £25 per hour. We will also offer an additional payment of £5 per meeting to help with costs of using home computers.

**When will it start?**

We are expecting the first online meeting will take place in May.

**How do I apply?**

If you are interested in joining the group please let us know **by email to**

[**s.k.baxter@sheffield.ac.uk**](mailto:s.k.baxter@sheffield.ac.uk)

In the email **please include:**

* What is your experience relating to painful dressing changes? Are you a person with a chronic condition needing painful dressing changes, or do you care for somebody who experiences painful dressing changes?
* Whereabouts in the country do you live?
* Are you in the age bracket 18-25, 26-40, 41-60, or over 60?
* Do you have any other experience which might be particularly relevant?

**Or** go to <https://scharr.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b2cixtanJ1W26Im>



* You will receive a confirmation email to let you know we have received your response.
* We will look at everyone who has offered to help, and try to choose a good mix of different experiences and people living in different places. We will let you know if we are inviting you to join.
* If there is no opportunity for you this time, we will ask whether you might be interested in being contacted about other groups in the future.

**Summary of the research**

Pain is a common experience for people living with chronic wounds, and pain during dressing change can be one of the worst parts.

There is currently no up-to-date review of research on strategies for pain management at dressing change in chronic wounds. We currently don’t know what strategies NHS staff use to address pain at dressing change, and there is no UK guidance for patients, carers, and practitioners.

This research aims to find and evaluate existing research studies that describe strategies to relieve pain at dressing change. We will also carry out a national survey of staff, together with interviews with patients, staff and carers to find out what pain relief strategies are being used at the moment. We want to know what people’s experience of these is. We also want to know what needs to happen in order for the best pain relief strategies to be available to everyone. We aim to produce clinical guidelines for the management of pain during dressing changes of chronic wounds. We want to produce guidelines which can be used by healthcare staff in both hospital and community settings. The project will take place over two years.