



Study Title: Stopping antibiotics when you feel better: exploring views of clinicians and citizens in using antibiotics differently in general practice.

Ethics approval reference: R75311

Chief Investigator: Dr Sarah Tonkin-Crine, University of Oxford

Researchers conducting interviews: Mr George Edwards and Dr Aleksandra Borek, University of Oxford

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Members of the public

1. Background and aims of the study

We are inviting members of the public to take part in a new study looking at management of urinary tract infections (UTIs) and antibiotic use in general practice.

Antibiotics are important medicines for treating infections caused by bacteria. However, bacteria can adapt and find ways to survive the effects of an antibiotic (i.e. develop antibiotic resistance) which means the infection may require an alternative antibiotic, may take longer to clear, or in some cases may cause further harm. It is important to use antibiotics only when needed and to use the minimum amount of antibiotics required to treat the infection.

In general practice many antibiotics are prescribed and each of these may be given for different lengths of time. For UTIs patients may receive a 3-day course of antibiotics or may receive a longer course. The evidence behind the length of antibiotic courses is limited in some areas and there is potential to reduce the number of days that patients have to take antibiotics to clear their infection.

One of the aims of this study is to understand different people's views on the idea of "stopping antibiotics when you feel better" instead of finishing the course of antibiotics. We are interested in hearing the views of people who have had a UTI in the past year and the views of clinicians working in general practice on whether this approach would be acceptable and, if so, how it could best be supported.

2. Why have you been invited to take part?

We are inviting members of the public to take part in an individual telephone interview or an online focus group (e.g. using Microsoft Teams). To participate you must have experienced urinary tract infection (UTI) symptoms in the last 12 months. You will need to be over 18 years of age and speak English fluently.

3. Do you have to take part?

No. Your participation is entirely voluntary. You can ask questions about the study before deciding whether or not to participate. You may also **withdraw** at any time without providing a reason. If you want to withdraw from the study any data collected during an interview will be deleted whilst data collected during a focus group will still be used.

4. What will happen in the study?

If you are happy to take part, please email george.edwards@phc.ox.ac.uk. You will then be contacted by a researcher to confirm whether you would prefer to take part in a telephone interview or an online focus group and to arrange a suitable time for you. Focus groups will include about 6 participants. A focus group will take approximately 60-90 minutes and an interview will take approximately 45-60 minutes. The focus group will include time for a break if it lasts longer than an hour. Prior to the focus group or at the start of an interview all participants will be asked to give verbal consent to confirm that they fully understand what taking part in the study will involve and that their questions about the research have been answered. We will audio-record the



interview or focus group with your permission. If you do not want your interview to be recorded we will make notes instead. All focus groups will need to be recorded.

5. Are there any potential risks in taking part?

There are no risks in taking part in this study: we will not be discussing sensitive topics, and the details below explain how your privacy will be maintained.

6. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There will be no direct benefit to you from taking part in an interview or focus group. However, taking part may help us understand how general practices can introduce patient-centred strategies to reduce unnecessary antibiotic use and to support patients to stop taking antibiotics when they're no longer required.

7. Expenses and payments

You will be offered £20 in online shopping vouchers as a thank you for your participation in an interview or focus group.

8. What happens to the data provided?

The **research data** will be stored confidentially on University of Oxford premises and university computer networks. The audio recording of your interview will be labelled with an anonymous number and stored in a study folder that can only be accessed by the research team on the University of Oxford IT network. The recording will be sent securely to an independent transcription company who will type up the recording. The company will have been assessed and approved for data security by the University of Oxford. Once the recording has been transcribed, the transcript will be checked for accuracy and the audio-recording will be deleted at the end of the study. The **transcript of the audio recording will be de-identified**, which means that it will not include any names or other defining details that can identify you.

Personal data will be stored securely in password protected files on secure computers on the University of Oxford IT network; only the research team will be able to access them. Personal data will include your name and contact details, age and gender. This data will include the written record of your verbal consent, taken in your interview or prior to your focus group, which will include your name.

The research team will have access to all research data. The transcription company will only have access to the audio recording of your interview (labelled with a participant number that does not identify you). We will ask all participants for their permission to use direct quotes. All quotes will be de-identified. At the end of the study de-identified transcripts will be stored in an online data repository available for future research where you have given permission for this. We will retain a list of participant names and details against participant numbers. This will be stored on University of Oxford computers as password protected files until the end of the study. All de-identified research data and records of consent forms will be stored for 10 years after the end of the study. Responsible members of the University of Oxford may be given access to data for monitoring and/or audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations.

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the study. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from

<http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/individualrights/>.



9. Will the research be published?

The research may be published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and may be presented at scientific conferences but any quotes used will be de-identified.

10. Who is organising and funding this work?

This work is being funded by the National Institute for Health Research Health Protection Research Unit in Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections. It is organised by researchers at the University of Oxford.

11. Who has reviewed this study?

This study has received ethical approval from the University of Oxford Medical Sciences Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee [reference R75311].

12. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the study or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, please contact Mr George Edwards at George.edwards@phc.ox.ac.uk or Dr Aleksandra Borek at Aleksandra.borek@phc.ox.ac.uk, and we will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible:

Chair, **Medical Sciences Inter-Divisional Research Ethics Committee**; Email: ethics@medsci.ox.ac.uk; Address: Research Services, University of Oxford, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD

13. Further information and contact details

If you are interested in taking part or have any questions, please contact one of the study researchers, Mr George Edwards by email, phone or post (contact details are below). We will then contact you to discuss the study. If you would like to receive a copy of the final report at the end of the study please also contact Mr Edwards.

Mr George Edwards

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THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS INFORMATION