



17/02/2022

Dear Staff Member

We would like to invite you to take part in a focus group on a choice of dates next month - Wednesday 16th March (2pm start), Friday 18th March (2pm start) or Thursday 24th March (9am start).

This is part of the ARCH (Antibiotic Research in Care Homes) study which is being conducted by a research team based at the University of Dundee in collaboration with University of Edinburgh, University College London and Queen's University Belfast. We are working to improve the management of infection and antibiotic use in care homes.

The focus group is to find out what you think about the ARChES (Antibiotic Research in Care Homes - Support) system and how it might work, or not, in everyday practice. The support system consists of training, a flow chart, a monitoring form, an SBAR form and stickers to highlight antibiotics in care records. It is based on our research and co-design with stakeholders across the care home sector. You do not need to have seen or used these tools before to participate.

We wish to invite staff of all grades but numbers will be limited so that everyone who joins can have a chance to express their views. The focus group will be held via Microsoft Teams or Zoom, so participants need to be able to use this software (on any device). The focus group will be a maximum of two hours and we will offer a thank you payment of £100 for participation. Participants are welcome to join during their own time, if they wish or during shift time (if this can be accommodated).

Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what the focus group will involve. Please take time to read the attached Participant Information Sheet.

If you are interested in taking part or want more information, please get in touch with Jane, our researcher, by Friday 4th March 2022.

We are happy to answer any questions and having a discussion does not commit you to participate in the study. You can choose not to take part or withdraw at any time without having to give a reason. If you do decide to take part, we will ask you to sign an informed consent form.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Yours sincerely,

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