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## **Participant information sheet**

### **Study Title:**

Service Evaluation of Primary Healthcare Services for Chronic Back Pain in England.

### **Lead Investigator:**

- Dr. Aseel Al-Salman

### **Co-Investigator:**

- Dr James Prior, Senior Research Fellow in Epidemiology, School of Medicine, Keele University, Staffordshire, UK.
- Prof Jon Packham, Consultant rheumatologist, Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT)
- Prof Toby Helliwell, Professor of General Practice and Primary Care lead in Global Health.
- Dr David Dobel-Obe, Evaluation Lead, MPFT.
- **Service Evaluation Oversight by MPFT**

### **Introduction**

You are being invited to take part in an evaluation study exploring the services available for patients with chronic back pain in primary care settings in England.

Before you decide whether to participate, it is important to understand why the study is being conducted, what it involves, and what your participation means.

Please take time to read this information carefully. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the research team at [a.al-salman@keele.ac.uk](mailto:a.al-salman@keele.ac.uk) or [evaluation@mpft.nhs.uk](mailto:evaluation@mpft.nhs.uk) before proceeding.

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### **What is the purpose of the study?**

The aim of this study is to assess the availability and accessibility of services for patients with chronic back pain in primary care. We hope to gather insights from healthcare managers like yourself to:

- Identify any gaps in service provision.
- Assess the availability of specialised support for patients with chronic back pain.
- Explore potential areas for service improvement.

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### **Why have I been invited to take part?**

You have been invited because you are a healthcare manager working within a **Primary Care Network (PCN)**. Your insights into the management and referral pathways for chronic back pain patients are invaluable in understanding the current state of services.

Participation is **voluntary**, and you may withdraw at any time before submitting your responses.

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### **What will I need to do if I take part?**

If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete an **online survey**, which will take approximately **5 minutes**. The survey will include questions about:

- ✓ Your work region within England.
- ✓ Primary care professionals who are available to see patient with chronic back pain
- ✓ Services/Clinics available for patient with chronic back pain.
- ✓ Your views on the need for additional training or service improvements.

Your responses will be crucial in shaping recommendations for better service provision for patients who experience with chronic back pain.

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### **Do I have to take part?**

No, participation is completely **voluntary**. You are under no obligation to take part, and choosing not to participate will have no impact on your professional role or on the organisation you are representing.

If you choose to proceed, you can withdraw **at any time before submitting your responses**, and your data will not be recorded. After submission if you would like to change/withdraw your response then you can email the research team using contact below up to 2 weeks after survey submitted.

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### **Will my details be kept confidential?**

Yes. Your privacy is very important to us.

- No personal details will be collected through the survey itself.
- Names of PCN managers and email addresses will only be used to send the survey and will not appear in the results.
- Your responses will be treated confidentially, both as a PCN manager and for your organization.
- All data will be securely stored in line with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Findings will be published in academic journals or presented at conferences, but no individual participant or organization will be identifiable.
- Regional differences may be reported, but confidentiality will always be maintained

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### **What are the potential benefits of taking part?**

While there are no direct benefits for you personally, your participation will:

- Contribute to a service evaluation that may improve the management of chronic back pain in primary care.
- Inform future service improvements that could enhance patient care in your area.

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### **Are there any risks to taking part?**

There are no known risks associated with this survey. The questions are related to service availability, so you should not find them distressing.

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### **What happens next?**

If you are happy to participate, please proceed to the survey linked in the email.

If you have any questions or concerns before taking part, please contact the research team at: [\*\*a.al-salman@keele.ac.uk\*\*](mailto:a.al-salman@keele.ac.uk)

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### **Who is conducting this study?**

This study is being conducted by **Dr. Aseel Al-Salman**, Academic GP Trainee at **Keele University**, with oversight from Midland Partnership University Evaluation Team.

If you have concerns about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact [\*\*evaluation@mpft.nhs.uk\*\*](mailto:evaluation@mpft.nhs.uk)

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**Thank you for considering taking part in this Survey**

**Your time and insights are greatly appreciated.**