

[The COVID-19 pandemic: an assessment of community pharmacists' preparedness and management in the UK and Europe]

Participant Information Sheet for community pharmacists in the UK

Invitation

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study.

Before you decide if you would like to participate, take time to read the following information carefully.

Please ask a member of the research team, whose contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet, if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information before you make your decision.

What is the purpose of the study?

Aston Pharmacy School at Aston University in collaboration with the Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA) are conducting a study to assess how the COVID-19 outbreak has impacted the community pharmacy practice in the UK and Europe. The results generated from this research are expected to help and guide professional bodies and pharmacists how to react to future pandemics and health challenges.

The specific objectives of the study are:

- 1- To assess how community pharmacists are managing and coping with the COVID-19 outbreak across the UK and Europe.
- 2- To explore interventions and innovations implemented by community pharmacists during the COVID-19 outbreak across the UK and Europe.
- 3- To identify the main barriers and challenges encountered by community pharmacists during the COVID-19 outbreak across the UK and Europe.
- 4- To assess whether community pharmacists have been provided with the required training and support to manage the fight against the COVID-19 outbreak across the UK and Europe.
- 5- To identify the main precautionary measures implemented in community pharmacies during the COVID-19 outbreak across the UK and Europe.

We are intending to involve at least 400 community pharmacists in this study.

Why have I been chosen?

You are being invited to take part in this study because:

You are a registered community pharmacist who is working in a community pharmacy in the UK. As a registered pharmacist in the UK, who is responsible for the care of patients in the community and is currently at the forefront of the battle against the COVID-19 outbreak, you are a potential participant for this research. We value your views greatly and we will be grateful if you can take part in this research.

The main inclusion criterion for this study is to be a registered pharmacist working in the community pharmacy setting. Hence, registered pharmacists working in other sectors are excluded.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to join the study, you will be asked to:

Fill an online questionnaire to collect information about demographics, changes to community pharmacy practice during the outbreak and any potential training provided to you. You can fill the online questionnaire using the link provided at the end of this information sheet.

This will take about 10-15 minutes of your time in total. We value your views greatly. Thank you for your time.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not you wish to take part. Acceptance to fill and submit the questionnaire will indicate your implied consent.

If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw and without giving a reason up to the point where you submit your data. After that, because data is anonymised, it will not be possible to remove your data.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes. A code will be attached to all the data you provide to maintain confidentiality. Furthermore, no identifiable information will be collected from you during this study.

The data we collect will be stored electronically on a secure encrypted mobile device, password protected computer server or secure cloud storage device.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

While there are no direct benefits to you of taking part in this study, the data gained will help to provide recommendations and future lessons for professional bodies and community pharmacists in the UK on how to manage and cope with future pandemics.

What are the possible risks and burdens of taking part?

It is not believed that there are any risks associated with this study. However, we understand that time is valuable to you especially during this period and this might represent an additional burden to you in terms of the time you will devote for reading this information sheet and filling the questionnaire. Therefore, we greatly appreciate that you will devote some of your time for this study.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of this study may be published in scientific journals and/or presented at conferences. If the results of the study are published, your identity will remain confidential.

A lay summary of the results of the study will be available for participants when the study has been completed and the researchers will ask if you would like to receive a copy.

Expenses and payments

There will be no payments or expenses associated with this study.

Who is funding the research?

The study is being funded by:

Aston University and the Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA).

Who is organising this study and acting as data controller for the study?

Aston University is organising this study in collaboration with the Pharmacists' Defence Association (PDA). Aston University is acting as data controller for the study. You can find out more about how we use your information in Appendix A.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study was given a favorable ethical opinion by the Life and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee at Aston University.

What if I have a concern about my participation in the study?

If you have any concerns about your participation in this study, please speak to the research team and they will do their best to answer your questions. Contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet.

If the research team are unable to address your concerns or you wish to make a complaint about how the study is being conducted you should contact the Aston University Research Integrity Office at research_governance@aston.ac.uk or telephone 0121 204 3000.

Research Team

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Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. If you have any questions regarding the study please don't hesitate to ask one of the research team.

If you would like to participate in the study, please click on the link below to complete the questionnaire:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/COVID19inCommunity>



Aston University takes its obligations under data and privacy law seriously and complies with the General Data Protection Regulation (“GDPR”) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (“DPA”).

Aston University is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you in order to undertake this study. Aston University will process your personal data in order to register you as a participant and to manage your participation in the study. It will process your personal data on the grounds that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (GDPR Article 6(1)(e)). Aston University may process special categories of data about you which includes details about your health. Aston University will process this data on the grounds that it is necessary for statistical or research purposes (GDPR Article 9(2)(j)). Aston University will keep identifiable information about you for 6 years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information at www.aston.ac.uk/dataprotection or by contacting our Data Protection Officer at dp_officer@aston.ac.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO).