

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LEAFLET (FOR CLINICIANS)

“Implementing myGRaCE in primary care and the community”

INVITATION TO TAKE PART IN OUR RESEARCH STUDY

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

Thank you for reading this

What is the purpose of this study? The purpose of this study is to enhance the safety of people with mental health problems in the community. Our aim is to help people have a better understanding of the kinds of risks they may face and the factors in their lives which can affect risk, so that they can monitor themselves and be better able to self-manage once they have been discharged from secondary care.

Aston University has developed a new online self-assessment tool for service users, called myGRaCE. This has been developed with mental health service users and is a companion to clinical versions of the Galatean Risk and Safety Tool (GRiST, www.egrist.org). It allows service users to collect the same information clinicians do, but with a more suitable interface and language, and with more emphasis on wellbeing and safety.

The idea is that myGRaCE should help service users and clinicians to be better able to talk about what makes people feel safe and what puts them at risk of harming themselves or others, and to understand each-others' point of view. This should support partnership working in assessing and making decisions together about how best to manage personal safety in the community. Based on analysis of its database of pooled clinical expertise, myGRaCE also provides service users with feedback about the level of risk in their lives; along with links to self-help resources and advice about self-management planning.

myGRaCE was originally designed for self-assessments in the community, and we have not previously tested out its usefulness in mental health services amongst the service users for whom they provide care.

Why have I been invited? We have invited you because you are a mental-health clinician with first-hand experience of assessing and managing risks associated with patients' mental health problems in the community. We are interested in your views on how myGRaCE helps patients to self-assess risk, and whether using it improves your partnership working with patients in assessing and deciding together how best to manage risk.

What will happen if I take part? A member of Mental Health Concern will explain the research to you and what participation in the study involves. If you want to be involved, we would like you to identify patients on your caseload who you think would be suitable candidates for trying out myGRaCE. We would like you to tell them about the study and explain to them what is involved in taking part. You will need to show patients how to access and use myGRaCE, and encourage them to bring their self-assessment(s) to their following meeting(s) with you.

We will also provide you with a login to GRaCE for Mental Health Concern where you can see this information and access a link to the evaluation survey. We may also want to have a focus group or interviews to discuss the role of myGRaCE, for which you will be given an invitation.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Potential benefits for clinicians will be the opportunity to improve partnership working with patients around risk assessment and management, and to help equip patients to self-monitor and manage their personal safety and risk in the community, after they have been discharged.

Are there any disadvantages to taking part in this research?

We do not anticipate any disadvantages, aside from the call on your time to complete the survey and to take part in a focus group or interview. However your employer has agreed to support these activities by allowing you the required time to take part.

Will my involvement in this study be kept confidential? All information collected as part of the survey, focus groups or interviews will be kept strictly confidential. Our procedures for handling, processing, storage and destruction of the data comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. This means that information about your contact details will be kept in a secure location separate from the information collected during discussion, interview or the survey.

The digital recordings of focus group discussions and interviews will be stored in an anonymous form using a code number for reference and not your name or anything that could identify you or your organisation. Only members of the research team will have access to the information collected, which will be stored electronically on one of the password-protected GRiST project computers managed by Aston University. Survey data will also be stored in anonymous form, using a code number for reference, on the secure server at Aston University. We will not use individually identifiable material in any of the reports we produce about the project.

In line with data storage policies, any digital recordings and field notes will be kept for a period of 5 years after the end of the research project, after which they will be destroyed. Personal information will be discarded as soon as the project is finished and the findings reported.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study? If you decide you don't want to carry on with the study you may withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without consequence.

What happens if I have any concerns? If you have any concerns about anything to do with this study, you should speak to the appropriate person in Mental Health Concern. You can also contact the GRiST and myGRaCE Director, Dr Christopher Buckingham, whose details can be found at the end of this information sheet.

What will happen to the results of the research? The results will be used to help us develop guidance for clinicians about shared decision making about risk assessment and management, with patients supported by myGRaCE. We will write a report for our funders and a feedback document for yourself and other secondary care colleagues who have taken part in the research, and one for participating service users. We also plan to publish our findings in peer-reviewed journals.

Who is funding the research? The study has been funded by the Judi Meadows Memorial Fund, and is now part-funded by the EIT Health European Union research programme.

Who has reviewed the study? This study has been reviewed by the trustees of the Judi Meadows Memorial Fund and by a panel of academic experts in the field of mental health risk assessment. It has also been reviewed by the National Research Ethics Service (NRES) Committee West Midlands - Solihull.

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Thank you very much for considering taking part in this study

