Aston University

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LEAFLET (SECONDARY CARE 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.

Please ask us if anything is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

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.

We have 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 use in primary care and the community, and we have not previously tested out its usefulness in secondary care 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 secondary care 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.

Do I have to take part? No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part and even if you do decide to, you are free to withdraw at any time without giving us a reason.

What will happen if I take part? A member of the research team will explain the research to you and what participation in the study involves. They will give you another copy of this information sheet to back this up, answer any questions you might have and ask you to sign an online consent form.

Next, 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 invite them to talk to a member of the research team, who will explain to them what is involved in taking part. The research team will show patients how to access and use myGRaCE, and encourage them to bring their self-assessment(s) to their following meeting(s) with you.

The research team will also provide you with a login to GRaCE, where you can view: the online consent form; myGRaCE and its companion clinical version; a link to the evaluation survey; whether or not particular patients have been recruited to the study; and the self-assessments of patients who are willing to share them with you.

There are two evaluation activities you can choose to be involved in: an on-line survey and either a focus group discussion or an individual interview, depending on which is most convenient. These activities will take place towards the end of the study, by which time you will have become familiar with caring for patients using myGRaCE.

If you are willing to take part in a focus group or individual interview, a researcher will contact you and other willing colleagues to arrange a time, date and place convenient to you. Immediately prior to the focus group discussion or interview, the researcher will explain the research again and re-check your willingness to take part. If your answer is 'yes', they will ask you to sign a consent form, to demonstrate that you agree to take part and that you understand what the research is about, and what it involves.

Focus group discussions and interviews will explore the impact of myGRaCE on your patients, and on shared decision making about risk assessment and management. All our focus group facilitators and interviewers are professionals who have been trained by the Universities of Warwick and Aston, and they will guide you through the discussion/interview topics. We will tape record each discussion or interview, which will last about 40-60 minutes.

You do not have to take part in the focus groups or interviews as well as the survey though. It is up to you to decide. You can agree to take part in only the survey if you wish.

What do I have to do? If you wish to go ahead, a researcher will contact you about the practical arrangements. If you decide not to take part, you will not be contacted again about this study.

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 research 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 Aston University 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 research team and they will do their best to answer your concerns. Contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet. If they cannot help you and you still have concerns or wish to make a complaint about the way in which the study has been conducted, then you should contact the Aston University Director of Governance, Mr John Walter, at j.g.walter@aston.ac.uk or telephone 0121 204 4665.

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 is providing sponsorship and professional indemnity for the study? Sponsorship and professional indemnity are provided by Aston University, Birmingham B4 7ET.

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