

CRN Y&H Participant Research in Experience Survey 20/21 –Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Introduction:

A total of 713 respondents across 9 studies completed the Participant Research Experience Survey across Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in the year 2020/2021. This was an increase of almost 600 from the previous year, and placed us 2nd in Yorkshire and Humber, just 10 responses behind Bradford Teaching Hospitals. This gave us a large amount of feedback to best understand participant views and factors that are important to them when taking part in research.

For the first time, STH also offered a digital version of the PRES as well as a paper version which benefits participants in giving them additional choice and could have contributed to increased responses compared with the previous year.

Recognition from the Clinical Research Network of STH contribution to PRES:

As a result of their involvement in collecting participant feedback this year, and the improvement plan they initiated as a result, the CRN invited Sheffield Clinical Research Facility (CRF) to submit a [case study](#) about how the feedback they received via PRES from COVID vaccine study participants proved invaluable to the success of subsequent COVID19 studies running through the CRF.

The Clinical Research & Innovation Office coordinate the delivery of PRES at the Trust, and were invited to join the CRN CC National PRES Advisory Group and be one of the Partner Organisation representatives to feed into development and delivery of PRES in future years. They are also part of a CRNCC Task and Finish Group to agree accessible versions of PRES. Working with research delivery teams across the Trust who offer PRES to participants enables us to have a comprehensive understanding around practicalities and logistics of offering PRES to trial participants, thus ensuring opportunities are available for all to provide meaningful feedback that can be acted upon with improvements made for future trial participants.

Overview of STH PRES responses 20/21 (quantitative questions)

- 1) *The Information I received before taking part prepared me for my experience on the study*
 - 96% strongly agreed or agreed

- 2) *I feel I have been kept updated about the research*
 - 86% strongly agreed or agreed, 8% were neutral and the remainder either disagreed or felt it was too early to tell

- 3) *I know how I will receive the results of the research*
 - 30% agreed they know how they will receive the results of the research
 - 48% thought they knew to some extent
 - 21% did not know how they will receive the results

- 4) *I know how to contact someone from the research team if I have questions or concerns*
 - 90% strongly agreed or agreed, and the remainder were generally neutral or disagreed
- 5) *The researchers have valued my taking part in the research*
 - 91% strongly agreed or agreed
- 6) *Research staff have always treated me with courtesy and respect*
 - 97% strongly agreed or agreed
- 7) For 78% of respondents it was the first study they had taken part in, and 96% would consider taking part in research again

Summary

Generally, the findings are very positive with the responses for the quantitative questions showing that participants are fully aware of what will happen to them during the trial and know what to do should they have questions whilst taking part. They also reveal that participants feel valued by the researchers and treated with courtesy. This was reflected by responses to the free text questions which highlighted the polite and friendly nature of staff, who had time to answer questions and gave thorough explanations.

However, there are also opportunities for improvements in the areas of feedback and communication. Participants consistently highlight the importance of receiving the results of the research that they took part in. However, the responses to this survey show that just over a fifth of respondents didn't know how they will receive the results, and almost half only thought they knew "to some extent". Most participants had been taking part for less than a year, with 15% having only been taking part for less than 3 months; so there is the possibility that if it was a trial running several years the participants may just not have been informed how they will receive the results at that stage. Nonetheless it is important that feedback is shared with participants and that they are made aware of when this might be expected after the trial has ended.

The national findings of the PRES are summarised and discussed here: [Participant in Research Experience Survey \(PRES\) 2020/21 | NIHR](#)

Broadly, local findings from the PRES reflect those nationally. The National Institute for Health and Care Research laid out four high level recommendations. These should be considered by researchers planning studies at an early stage:

- 1) Improving Communications**
 - Using multiple methods
- 2) Practicalities of participation**
 - Respect people's time
 - Involving patients and the public in study design to ensure appropriate
- 3) Recruitment materials**

- Appeal to people's sense of altruism
- Highlight the impacts of the research to potential participants

4) Technology

- Where using apps or other data entry systems, these should be reliable, easy to use and co-designed with intended users