DEM-VW study: Evaluating virtual wards

Information for professionals about a workshop study

You are being invited to take part in a research study. This information sheet is designed to explain why the research is being done and what it would involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please get in touch with a member of the research team if anything is not clear or you would like more information. **Thank you for reading this.**

If you have any questions, please contact our researcher:

Emily Spencer
Queen Mary, University of London

Telephone: 07502 872 305
Email: emily.spencer@qmul.ac.uk

Why are we doing this research?

As a person with dementia becomes frailer, they are at an increased risk of falls and infections, often resulting in hospital admission. Most people with dementia would prefer to remain at home, which can be enabled through the use of virtual wards. Although such services have been delivered in some areas for many years, services are heterogeneous, with no 'blueprint' to inform optimal care.

It is currently unclear how different models of virtual ward work with and for people with dementia, whether adaptations are required, or if they face barriers to access. Family carers are critical to supporting people with dementia while on a virtual ward, however little is known about how these services can support family carers without increasing carer burden.

In previous phases of this study, we have gathered evidence from health and care professionals, patients and family carers linked to virtual wards across England regarding their experiences of delivering and receiving care through virtual wards. In this final phase of the study, we are aiming to co-develop policy and practice recommendations, in collaboration with key stakeholders, on adapting virtual wards for people with dementia, to ensure these services work well for patients and their family carers.

Why have you been invited?

You have been invited to take part in this study because you are a health or care professional involved in caring for people with dementia, or the commissioning or delivery of a virtual ward.

What are we asking you to do?

If you decide to participate:

- **You will be invited to attend up to three workshops**. These workshops will include other key stakeholders, including health and care professionals, commissioners, members of third sector organisations, as well as family carers. Workshops will be interactive, including small- and whole-group activities.
- You will be asked to **share your thoughts** on the policy and practice recommendations being developed. What is discussed in the workshops will be used to shape and refine these recommendations, to ensure that virtual wards meet the needs of people with dementia and their family carers.
- Workshops will last **up to 90 minutes** and will be held face-to-face. Refreshments will be provided. If for any reason we cannot conduct the workshops face-to-face, they may be held remotely via Teams. You will be able to take a break or stop completely at any time. **Workshops will be audio recorded**.
- If attending a group workshop would be difficult for you, an individual meeting can be organised to enable you to participate.
- We will ask you to **complete a short demographic questionnaire**. This will take no more than five minutes.
- **All of your information, including audio recordings, will be stored securely and confidentially.**

What are the benefits of taking part?

Your involvement in this study will help us to develop policy and practice recommendations for the delivery of virtual wards for people with dementia. We hope that this will lead to improved care.

What are the risks of taking part?

There are no known risks to taking part. However, if for any reason you want to stop taking part in the study you can.

Do you have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you choose to take part, you can withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason.

Will information be kept confidential?

Confidentiality will be subject to legal constraints and professional guidelines. This means that anything you share will be treated as confidential, unless you tell us (or we observe) something that suggests malpractice by staff, risk of harm to service users, a potential criminal offence, or serious concerns about someone's health and wellbeing.

How will we use information about you?

We will need to use information from you for this research project. This information will include:

- Your name
- Your contact details
- The questionnaire you complete
- The recordings of the workshops

People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly.

People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead.

Queen Mary, University of London (QMUL) is the sponsor of this research. QMUL is responsible for looking after your information. We will not share your information related to this research project with any other organisations.

We will keep all information about you safe and secure by:

- Keeping all your information in a secure location at QMUL.
- Electronic data, including audio recordings, will be stored on an access-controlled, encrypted network.
- Paper documents will be kept in a locked filing cabinet.

How will we use information about you after the study ends?

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no one can work out that you took part in the study.

We will keep your study data for a maximum of five years. The study data will then be fully anonymised and securely archived or destroyed.

Your data will not be shared outside of the UK.

What are your choices about how your information is used?

- You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.
- You have the right to ask us to access, remove, change or delete data we hold about you for the purposes of the study. You can also object to our processing of your data. We might not always be able to do this if it means we cannot use your data to do the research. If so, we will tell you why we cannot do this.

Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information:

- by looking at the Health Research Authority's leaflet: www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch
- by asking one of the research team, or
- by sending an email to data-protection@qmul.ac.uk

Who is organising and funding this study?

This research is funded by the Alzheimer's Society (project grant 667). The study is being led by Professor Nathan Davies.

Has the research been reviewed by an appropriate research ethics committee?

This research study has been reviewed and approved by the NHS Research Ethics Committee Wales REC7.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any concerns about any aspects of this research, please contact the Chief Investigator - Professor Nathan Davies: n.davies@qmul.ac.uk

What happens now?

You can get in touch with the lead researcher to say whether or not you would like to take part, or to ask for more information:

Researcher: Emily Spencer
Email: emily.spencer@qmul.ac.uk
Telephone: 07502 872 305

Thank you for taking the time to read this.