Information about a workshop study

1. About this study

We have been talking to and working with **patients**, **family carers**, and **health and care staff**.

They told us what it is like to be part of a **virtual ward.**



A virtual ward is where:

- A person stays at **home** instead of going to hospital
- Doctors and nurses still visit the person's house to **check on** them
- Care may happen **in person or using technology**

You may have also heard a virtual ward be called **hospital at home**.

We now want to make clear guidance to help staff understand:

- How to make virtual wards work well for **people with dementia**
- How to support the **family members and friends** who help people with dementia **stay at home**

Our aim is to make virtual wards **safe**, **helpful**, and **easy to use** for everyone.

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2. Why have you been invited?

- You have previously been cared for on a virtual ward.
- You may dementia of memory difficulties
- Your experience is important

We are inviting people who would like to help develop the guidance and information.

3. What are we asking you to do?

If you decide to take part:



You will be invited to attend up to three workshops with other people living with dementia. There will be different activities in smaller and larger groups.

You will be asked to **share your thoughts** on the information and guidance being developed.

Workshops will last **up to 90 minutes**



- There will be regular breaks
- Hot/cold drinks and light snacks provided
- The workshops will be held face-to-face or online video call
- **Workshops will be audio recorded to help us remember what was discussed**

If attending a group workshop would be difficult for you, an **individual meeting** can be organised to make it possible for you to take part.



We will ask a few short questions, such as:

- Your age
- Your gender
- Your ethnicity
- Who you live with

This takes about **5 minutes**.

All of your information, including audio recordings, will be stored securely and confidentially.

4. What are the benefits of taking part?

Your involvement will help us to develop guidance and information for the health and care professionals involved in running virtual wards.

We hope that this will lead to improved care for people with dementia.

As a thank you for your time, you will also be offered a £20 high street voucher. We will also pay for your travel expenses for face-to-face workshops.

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5. Are there any risks?

You may find talking about your experiences of being cared for on a virtual ward upsetting or tiring. If you feel upset or uncomfortable at any stage, you can:



- Take a break during the workshop
- Stop at any time

You are always in control.

An experienced member of our research team will be available to listen to you and provide support.

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6. Do I have to take part?

No.

Taking part is your choice.

Your care will not change is you decide to take part or not.

You can stop being part of the workshop at any time, without giving a reason.

7. How will my information be kept safe?

In this research study we **will use information from you.** We will only use information that we need for the research study. We will let very few people know your name or contact details, and only if they really need it for this study.

Everyone involved in this study **will keep your data safe and secure**. We will also follow all **privacy rules.**

At the end of the study, we will save some of the data in case we need to check it and/or use it for future research.

We will make sure no-one can work out who you are from the reports we write.

The study results may be shared in:

- Research journals or conferences

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8. Can my information be used in future research?

We may ask if we can use anonymous information in future studies.

Anonymous means:

- Your name and personal details are removed
- You can **say no** and still take part in this study

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9. Who is running the study?

The study is led by **Professor Nathan Davies**

Email: n.davies@qmul.ac.uk

The research is run by **Queen Mary University of London**.

The study is funded by the **Alzheimer's Society**.

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10. Has the study been checked?

✓ Yes.

An independent **Research Ethics Committee** has checked and approved this research.

This helps make sure research is **safe and fair**.

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11. Who can I contact?

📞 If you would like to take part or ask questions, please contact:

Emily Spencer – Researcher

Phone: 07502 872305 Email: emily.spencer@qmul.ac.uk

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12. Thank you

Thank you for reading this information.

Your experience can help improve care for people with dementia.