

# Maternal and Infant Research



Patient and Public Involvement  
Group

## What is Patient and Public Involvement?

This is a term used to describe the inclusion of patients, service users and the public in research. This is not the same as participating in research, but rather means actively helping us with the process of research. This may include helping to set research priorities, reviewing research proposals and having input into how studies are run.

## What is research and why is it important?

Research takes many forms, but essentially it is about trying to answer specific questions to increase our knowledge. In healthcare this knowledge is used to help us understand health and disease and to develop ways of improving treatments or healthcare policy. Research is a central part of the NHS and it is vital that this is accessible to as many people as possible.

## What type of research would this group be discussing?

We are committed to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on women and their babies. We know from research that COVID-19 can affect some pregnant women more than others due to risk factors, for example black and minority ethnic groups are at a higher risk. We want to discuss research that helps us understand the risk of this infection in pregnancy and infancy.

We also want to hear your thoughts on COVID-19 vaccine in pregnancy trials.

### What would my involvement be?

We plan to meet as a virtual group online several times throughout the year to discuss potential new studies, research which is at the proposal stage and ongoing work. This meeting will last for approximately 1.5 hours and require internet access and a computer or smart phone to join via a link, we will send in an email. Participation is voluntary and unpaid. You may be sent some information about the studies before the meeting if you wish to read it, but this will not be essential.

### Do I have to take part?

No. Participation in the group is entirely voluntary and not taking part would not affect your healthcare or participation in future research studies. If you choose to join the group you would be free to leave at any time.

**We hope that this group will allow us to form collaborations with the public to strengthen our research and help to improve the healthcare we provide to pregnant women and infants.**

For more information please contact a member of  
the maternal and infant research teams:

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