

## **Invitation letter at start of survey**

Survey Title: A survey of carbon monoxide alarm use in patients attending the Emergency Department

Chief Investigator: Professor Heather Jarman

### **What am I being invited to do?**

We would like to invite you to participate in this survey about carbon monoxide alarms you may have in your home. This survey is open to anyone living in the UK over 16 years of age and the reason for your visit to the Emergency Department does not matter.

### **What is the purpose of this survey?**

Carbon monoxide is a colourless, odourless gas which can cause symptoms such as headache, muscle aches and flu like symptoms. Carbon monoxide exposure leads to around 4000 attendances to Emergency Departments each year and can cause long term health problems. Having a carbon monoxide alarm (which can look similar to a smoke alarm) can alert you to higher than normal levels of carbon monoxide in your home.

We are trying to find out how many people have carbon monoxide alarms in their homes and if there are differences in those who have alarms compared to those who do not.

### **Do I have to take part?**

Participation in our survey is entirely voluntary and you do not have to take part. This will not affect your care in our emergency department or prolong your wait time.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you agree to take part, after filling in a consent form, you will be asked a series of questions about the type of home you live in and whether you have carbon monoxide alarms. We are

asking that you complete this survey even if you do not, or do not know, if you have an alarm. Once you have completed the survey you do not need to do anything more. The survey has been tested and will take approximately 5 - 10 minutes to complete.

### **What are the benefits or disadvantages of taking part in the survey?**

There are no direct benefits or disadvantages to taking part in this survey nor are there any payments. However, the study team hopes the results of this survey can be used to inform and improve the way the carbon monoxide alarms are used in people's home to reduce the harm caused by carbon monoxide exposure.

### **What if there is a problem?**

If you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been treated during the course of this survey then please speak with the study team who have asked you to take part who will do their best to answer your questions or concerns.

Alternatively, you can contact the hospital's Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 020 8725 2453 or by emailing [complaints.compliments@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:complaints.compliments@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

### **How will we use information about you?**

We will need to use information from you for this research project. This information will include your age, ethnicity, and household information. This survey is not connected to the information held on your hospital record and the researchers will not be able to individually identify you from the information you enter. Only the study team will be able to see the information you provide. We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

There is an option to leave your postcode (or not) in the survey. The study team would like to look at whether there are any effects of geographical area on answers to the survey. Once the survey has closed the study team will convert all postcodes to a nationally available 'code' of the area you live in, and then delete your postcode. By doing this it will never be possible to

identify you or the road that you live in, as one code is given to multiple postcodes in the same area.

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.

### **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. Unfortunately, once data has been submitted it will not be possible for the study team to find and delete your answers as we are not asking for any personal details, making it impossible for us to retrieve and delete your individual answers.

St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using the information you provide to undertake this survey and will act as the data controller. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

All data will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 (UK implementation of the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)). Only a small team of researchers will be able to look at your answers and all data is held on a password protected computer and stored on St George's University of London servers.

### **Where can I find out more about how your information is used?**

For more information on how we secure your data please see the St Georges Privacy link below.

SGHFT Privacy link: <https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/about/privacy-notice/>

<https://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/education-and-research/research/research-privacy-notice/>

### **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

Once the data is analysed it will be published into a scientific journal or presented at a national conferences. This is because we want to raise awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide and how to keep safe. Findings of the study will be shared with organizations who advise on carbon monoxide safety.

The results will be de-identified and cannot be traced back to yourself.

### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

This study is being run by Professor Heather Jarman, Consultant Nurse in the Emergency Department. The study is funded by the Carbon Monoxide Research Trust (formerly the Gas Safety Trust), a registered charity, established in 2005. Their objective is to reduce the incidents of death and serious injury from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

All research in the NHS is looked at by independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee (REC), to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given favorable opinion by the Westminster Research Ethics Committee (reference 21/PR/1657).