

NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Global Surgery

Follow-up within global surgery trials: a qualitative investigation to improve trial Retention (FEATHER)

Participant information sheet (Stakeholder)

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Background

Up to half of patients have a wound infection following abdominal surgery. The CHEETAH trial, within which you are a member of the research or administrative team, is seeking to improve the way that we perform surgery around the world and reduce the risk of wound infections for future patients. We are talking to you about this research project, FEATHER, to learn more about your experiences with follow-up of patients within the CHEETAH trial.

In research studies it is very important that all the required information about patients that enter into the study is entered. If patients are not contactable after they leave hospital, it can lead to results that do not reflect the true benefits or risks of new treatments. The purpose of FEATHER is to identify difficulties that patients from low- and middle-income countries may have in returning for follow-up appointments, as well as finding potential ways to encourage patients to both participate and stay involved in research.

What this study entails

A team of researchers will ask you about your experiences of patients returning for research follow-up, and why they may choose to participate in the CHEETAH study. The researchers will describe several ways which could be used to encourage patients to stay involved in research, and they will ask for your views on whether or not this would work in your hospital or university. They will also talk to patients who were part of the CHEETAH trial, that were and were not able to return in-person for follow-up to learn from their experiences directly. This study is being undertaken as a partnership with surgeons at *enter name of local hospital* and researchers at the University of Birmingham in the UK.

Time commitment

The time commitment for you is low. Whilst you are here at the hospital, at home, in the community, or over a telephone or video call, we will ask some questions as part of interview. For most people this lasts less than one hour, but it can be a little shorter or a little longer depending on how much there is to talk about. Once this interview is completed, your participation will be over, and nothing further will need to be done.

Information to be collected

Only basic information about you will be collected. This will include information about your age, gender, the type of job you do, the sort of area you live in, your experiences within the CHEETAH trial, and your thoughts about how we can encourage future patients to stay involved with research. We will not keep any information about your name, address or telephone number. The researcher will ask for permission to audiotape their interview with you, and they may also make some notes. If any questions make you uncomfortable, you do not have to answer them. You can stop the interview at any time. If a translator is needed to complete the interview or process data from the recording of the interview, they will be asked to sign a confidentiality agreement and will not share any information about your interview with anyone outside of the research team.

Confidentiality

Information about you will be kept confidential. Only information that is essential for the research will be sent to the University of Birmingham in England which is coordinating this study. No identifying data will be stored. This information will be stored for 10 years, and will then be deleted.

Consent

It is up to you whether you wish to join the study. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form. You are free to leave the study at any time, without giving a reason.