



The NIHR Research Design Service for the East of England

Qualitative Research Guidance

Examples of qualitative research supported by RfPB programme

[PB-PG-0906-11088](#) Healthcare workers' attitudes to working during pandemic influenza

RfPB Competition 2

Principal Investigator:

Dr Heather Draper

University Of Birmingham

Scientific Summary Aims:

Primary aim: to enhance contingency planning and national preparedness, and therefore patient benefit, by:-Exploring healthcare workers' (HCWs) views about their obligations to continue working during an influenza pandemic -Determining what factors might positively or negatively affect HCWs' willingness to continue working during an influenza pandemic-Determining what measures might enable or help HCWs to continue working during an influenza pandemic -Estimating the proportion and characteristics (professional/non-professional, age sex, family commitments etc) of HCWs likely to continue working during an influenza epidemic. Secondary aims: to explore how a pandemic may weaken professionalism & the duty of care; assess what HCWs know about pandemic influenza & contingencies measures.

Scientific Summary Plan of Investigation:

Multi-method study set in the West Midlands. 10 focus groups across the range of HCWs most likely to be affected during a pandemic will be run. Detailed qualitative analysis will generate a thematic framework that identifies for each individual & focus group beliefs & factors that influence commitment to work during an influenza pandemic. The emerging themes will be used as the basis for a validation survey using a postal/online questionnaire targeted at all HCWs from purposively recruited healthcare Trusts. The responses (powered to be 1500) will be analysed to determine proportion and characteristics of those unlikely to work normally, associations between attitudes to continued working, category of HCW and demographic characteristics. The results will be generalisable to NHS HCWs.

[PB-PG-0107-11221](#) Investigating patients' health priorities and use of health services. A qualitative exploration.

RfPB Competition 3

Principal Investigator:

Prof. Bie Nio Ong

Keele University

Grant:

£138,441.00

Scientific Summary Aims:

This project builds on our previous research and discussions with our user forum and patient representatives about self-care for knee osteoarthritis and knee pain. The aims are to investigate patients' decision making for self-care. Two propositions will be explored:-Patients with disabling knee pain who do not consult a general practitioner about their problem do undertake self-care because knee pain is given some priority for self-care and patients believe there is benefit of self-care for this condition.-Patients with disabling knee pain who do not consult a general practitioner about their problem do not undertake self-care because knee pain is not seen as a priority, patients do not think self-care is efficacious, or patients may want help, but are unsure of how to access this.

Scientific Summary Plan of Investigation:

As this project aims to explore reasons for uptake of self-care, a qualitative design is required. The study draws on an existing epidemiological cohort study as its sampling frame. At least 30 individuals with moderate to severe knee pain (15 who use and 15 who do not use self care) will be selected and interviewed. They will be interviewed about their health and specific conditions, and any priority listing that they use to make decisions about self-care. The barriers and facilitators to adoption of self-care will be explored. Analysis will combine thematic and narrative approaches. A consensus conference with patients and practitioners will discuss findings and practice implications and develop patient defined pathways for supported self-care for knee pain in older people.

PB-PG-0807-14068 What makes older women want to use preventive medications for osteoporosis? A qualitative study of adherence to osteoporosis medication in the 70–85 age group

RfPB Competition 5**Principal Investigator:**

Professor Amanda Howe

University Of East Anglia

Grant:

£168,159.00

Scientific Summary Aims:

To ascertain the perceived factors that influence older women to adhere long term to preventive medication for fracture risk factors in probable osteoporosis. Give details of key perceptions and motivations to which patients attribute their willingness and ability to adhere to different osteoporosis prevention regimens? Establish guidance for clinical staff, pharmacists and manufacturers to maximise the possibility of patient adherence in this patient population.

Scientific Summary Plan of Investigation:

30-50 women aged 70-85 recruited through related MRC funded study of screening for fracture risk, sampled purposively across a range of experiences and factors (e.g. age, profile at entry, level of adherence) until a full range of views has been included.. Interviews at 3 and 24 months after initial recommendation to start osteoporosis prevention treatments, to cover understanding purpose of medications; difficulties with medications, including clarity of information given by clinical staff about impacts and use of the medication; motivators & detractors for adherence (e.g. lack of immediate evidence of benefit); views on dosing regimens and formulations; other relevant problems including co-morbidity and "medicalisation" of later life; reasons for and against long term usage.