

Researcher

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The normal NHS complaints mechanism is available to you if you wish to complain about any aspect of the way you are approached or treated during the course of this study. Formal complaints may be addressed to Professor Anne Marie Rafferty, Head of Florence Nightingale School of Nursing & Midwifery, King's College London, Tel 020 7848 3561.

Should you require independent advice, you may wish to contact the Maternity Services Liaison Committee at the Women's Centre in St Thomas', Tel 020 7188 7188. You can also contact the National Childbirth Trust through their website www.nctpregnancyandbabycare.com or you may wish to look up the INVOLVE website www.invo.org.uk.



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Ethnographic Observations: Maternity Staff Information Sheet

The One-to-One Caseload Project Evaluation

The One-to-One Caseload Project is a partnership between King's College London, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and Guy's and St Thomas' Charity

We would like to invite you to take part in a study of caseload midwifery care taking place in your Trust between October 2005 and December 2006. Researchers from King's College London are carrying out the study, funded by the Guy's and St Thomas' Charity.

The study has several purposes:

- to discover more about maternity staff and women's views on caseload midwifery care.
- to explore the impact of caseload midwifery care on both women and those who care for them.
- through this increased understanding, to help improve the service provided.

Below are some questions people often ask about research, and our answers. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to contact one of the project team, listed on the back of this leaflet.

1. Who has given ethics approval for the study?

The NHS Research Ethics Committee for St Thomas' Hospital has reviewed the study and given it ethical approval (05/Q0702/182).

2. Why may I be invited to take part?

You are a maternity staff member at this Trust. Your participation is entirely voluntary, but we do hope you can help us by taking part.

3. What would be involved in taking part?

As part of this project, we would like to observe a range of maternity staff in their daily work, to help us better understand your views and experiences. The observation arrangements would be agreed with you in advance, and would involve one of our research team unobtrusively watching you at work, and occasionally asking you questions if it is not disruptive to do so. With your permission she would make notes about what she is seeing and what you tell her. If you do decide to participate, then we would contact you to agree the type and timing of these observations with you.

4. What if I change my mind?

It is your right at any time to ask the researcher to leave, to discontinue your participation, or to ask her to explain her questions. Should you choose to discontinue your participation, you do not have to give an explanation.

5. Will taking part be of any benefit to me?

We hope that the findings of our research will contribute to a better understanding of the maternity services provided by your Trust and therefore, help to improve the service you are involved in delivering. We will present the findings to staff at this Trust as well as publishing them, and we hope you will find them useful.

6. Are there any disadvantages to taking part?

You may feel uncomfortable having an observer watching aspects of your work, such as sitting in on your appointments with women.

However, we do not expect anyone to suffer any harm or injury as a result of participating in the study, although we do have insurance cover. The study does not involve you altering any aspect of your clinical practice.

7. Will what I say be confidential?

Yes. All information that is collected about you, and about the women you care for, during the course of the research will be anonymised and kept strictly confidential, in accordance with the 1998 Data Protection Act. Any notes we make will be given a code number to ensure that they are not traceable to an individual. All the notes will be stored securely and made accessible only to research team members.

8. What if I have any concerns?

You can contact the research team at any time, using the contact details on the back of this leaflet. We will be very happy to discuss your concerns and/or put you in touch with someone who will be able to help.

9. How and where will the results be published?

We plan to publish papers in professional and academic journals and user publications, and will also disseminate findings within this Trust, on the internet and at conferences. We will keep you informed about dissemination at the end of the study and will send you a summary of the research findings.

10. Where can I find out more about the study?

Further information can be found on the web at:

www.kcl.ac.uk/nursing/research/projects/1to1caseload.html

Thank you very much for reading this leaflet and for considering helping with this study