

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: Women's 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 purpose of the study is to improve our understanding of women's and health professionals' views and experiences of different models of midwifery care. We hope the knowledge gained will 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 approved the study?

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

2. Why have I been chosen to take part?

Any woman registering for maternity care at this Trust from October 1st 2005 to Dec 31st 2005 may be invited to take part. 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 the research, we would like to observe a range of midwifery staff as they go about their daily work. Some of the work involves seeing women, and in these cases we would like to ask for your participation. This would mean giving one of our researchers permission to sit in on your maternity care appointment. She would not ask you or the staff any questions, but with your permission, she would make notes about what happens during your appointment. It is your right at any time to ask her to leave, to stop your participation, or to ask her to explain the study further.

4. What if I change my mind?

It is your right at any time to ask the researcher to leave, to stop your participation, or to ask her to explain the study further. If you decide to withdraw

from the study, you do not have to give an explanation, and your maternity care will not be affected in any way.

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

Perhaps not directly, but we hope that the study findings will lead to a better understanding of the maternity services provided by your Trust and therefore help to improve the maternity service for women in the future.

6. Are there any disadvantages to taking part?

It may be uncomfortable to have someone sitting in on your appointment, and it may be embarrassing to have another person in the room when you discuss issues that feel personal and private to you. This is why we ask would like you to think about your participation before giving consent, and to ask us any questions you may have.

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 treatment and advice you receive will be the same whether you take part or not.

7. Will everything I say be confidential?

Yes. If you agree to take part, any information that is collected about your appointment during 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 make sure that they cannot be traced to an individual. All the notes from our observations will be stored securely and made accessible only to research team members.

8. What if I have any concerns?

If you think of questions about the study, or you start to feel anxious, please feel free to contact the research team 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 the findings in popular pregnancy magazines, in consumer, academic and professional journals, on the internet and at conferences to associations involved in improving maternity services. We will also send you a summary of the research findings at the conclusion of the study.

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