

Invitation to take part in a study of the experiences and training needs of HCAs working with older people

Study title: *Can Healthcare Assistant Training improve the relational care of older people?: A development and feasibility study of a complex intervention*

We wish to invite Healthcare Assistants (HCAs) working at XXXX to take part in an interview study designed to explore the experiences and training needs of HCAs working with older people.

To help you decide whether this is something you wish to consider, this information sheet explains why the research is being conducted and what it would involve for you.

What is the purpose of the study?

The study team are developing a short training course for HCAs who provide care for older people in hospital. The training needs of HCAs are often overlooked in spite of their increasing role in the direct care of older people. We are particularly interested in the aspects of training such as dignity, empathy, and emotional support.

If I decide to take part now, can I change my mind later?

Yes. Your participation in our study is entirely voluntary. If you decide later (even during the interview itself) that you do not wish to continue, then you are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

What can I expect if I take part?

If you decide to take part we will arrange an interview with you at a time and place convenient for you, for example your place of work. You will be interviewed by a researcher who will be able to answer any questions about the study both before you decide to take part, or prior to the interview itself (please see the contact details at the end of this sheet). If you are happy to take part we will ask you to complete and sign a consent form at the beginning of the interview.

The interview will last for approximately 30 to 45 minutes. You will be asked about your work in caring for older people, your role as an HCA, any training you may have undertaken, and your preferences in terms of types of training.

Your views and experiences will be used, alongside those of other HCAs that we interview, in the development of a training course for HCAs working with older people in hospital.

What are the possible risks / disadvantages of taking part?

Sometimes, discussion about the care of older people may be upsetting if it directly or indirectly invokes a distressing experience. We will approach these subjects sympathetically, but if you find it difficult for any reason and would like to withdraw, you can do so at any time.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot guarantee that the study will help you directly. But we hope to learn from your experience and design a training course that we anticipate will benefit the HCA workforce and those they care for.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

We will keep your personal details (name, address and contact details) secure and this information will not be shared beyond members of the study team that you will meet.

Everything you say / report is confidential unless you tell us something that indicates that you or someone else is at risk of harm. We would discuss this with you before telling anyone else.

If we use quotes from the interview in any written reports, it will not be possible for individuals to be identified.

What if there is a problem?

If you are unhappy about the way the study is conducted you should contact the site investigator (NAME) at: XXXX. Tel: XXXX. E-mail: XXXX

[Alternatively, you may contact \(NAME\) \(who is independent of the study\) at: \(ADDRESS\)](#)



Who is organising and funding the research?

The study is funded by the National Institute for Health Research via a research grant awarded to the University of East Anglia. The project is led by Professor Antony Arthur at the School of Nursing Sciences.

The study has been approved by the UEA Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Ethics Committee, and XXXX.

Further information and contact details

If you would like further information or to discuss this study please contact the UEA researcher, (NAME) or the Trust contact.

		Trust contact name and address
		Trust contact telephone number
		Trust contact email address

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**National Institute for
Health Research**