

Dear

I am emailing to ask if you would be willing for your trust to participate in an important piece of research to understand the impact of mortality alerts on trusts. We believe that the findings from this research will be valuable to the NHS and should also be useful for participating organisations in developing their response to these alerts.

The Imperial College mortality alerting system has been in place since 2007 and more recently the CQC has been sending out mortality alerts too. This research is the first time the system has been examined and will provide you with the opportunity to help inform the future development of the mortality alerting system across the NHS. We are keen to find out, for example, whether the data in the alerts are seen as credible or not; whether they accord with local data; also, whether the alerts are perceived as effective or not in stimulating local action. We will be able to provide your trust with feedback and insight into your local response compared to the other organisations.

The study is funded by the National Institute for Health Research's (NIHR) Health Service and Delivery Research Programme (HS&DR). More information can be found here: <http://www.nets.nihr.ac.uk/projects/hsdr/1217822>.

The research is being undertaken by our team in the Centre for Patient Safety and Service Quality (CPSSQ) at Imperial College together with Dr Paul Aylin (Imperial College), Prof Charles Vincent (Oxford University) and Prof Aneez Esmail (Manchester University).

We will be looking at the alerts for septicaemia and acute myocardial infarction (AMI) and will be undertaking the research in 12 trusts. Your trust has been selected from those that have received an alert for one of these conditions in the last three years.

Participating in the research will involve interviews with up to 12 people in your organisation who deal with mortality alerts. We would also like to discuss the action plans that have been drawn up and to talk about how these were put into practice including what worked and what didn't work.

We will keep the names of the trusts participating in the research confidential and they will not be identified in the final report or in any publications or presentations.

I have attached some more details about the project and do hope you will agree to help us in this important research. If you would like to talk to me before deciding then please don't hesitate to contact me by email or phone. We do hope you will agree to participate in this study and have your say on the future of mortality surveillance across the NHS.

I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely