

PITCH



Paracetamol and Ibuprofen for the Treatment of fever in Childhood

PITCH invitation letter v1.8

Dear Parent or Guardian

We are inviting parents or guardians of children aged between 6 months and less than five years old, who have come to the doctor/nurse today because of a fever (high temperature), to help with a research study called **PITCH**. This study is being run by Bristol University and will look at the best ways of treating fever. We would be grateful if you would answer the following questions by ticking the boxes that apply to you and your child. Please complete one form for each child seeing the doctor/nurse today.

YES NO

1. Is the child you have brought to the GP today aged more than 6 months and less than five years old?

If you have answered NO to question 1, please return this form to the research nurse in the waiting room. You don't need to do anything else.

YES NO

2. Does your child have a fever/high temperature OR have they recently had a fever/high temperature (in the last 24 hours)?

If you have answered NO to question 2, please could you indicate the reason for your visit below and then return the form to the research nurse in the waiting room.

Reason: _____

If you have answered YES to both questions, then please read the rest of this letter.

You are being invited to take part in the **PITCH** study. It will see which medicines (paracetamol and/or ibuprofen) work best for fever and will last for five days. Before you make a decision it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. There will be a number of chances to ask questions about the study: first, with the doctor or nurse you are about to see and second, with a research nurse, based at the [Site Name] or available by telephone. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Please take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this,

[Site Name]

1. What is the PITCH research study?

This study aims to see whether using paracetamol **and** ibuprofen together is any better than using either medicine alone when young children have a fever. We are all concerned when children become feverish, but no one knows how best to treat them. Together, we would like to find out which medicine or combination of medicines works best.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited because you have come to the doctor or nurse today with a young child with a fever. We hope that around 800 children in the Bristol area will take part in the **PITCH** study over its two-year course.

3. Do I have to decide now?

No. We understand that at the moment you are probably more concerned about your child and what the doctor/nurse will say. All you need to do for now is decide if you want to know more about the study. The doctor/nurse will see your child as usual and then ask you if you would like to talk to a **PITCH** study research nurse. She will be able to give you more information about the study so you can decide if you want to take part.

4. What do I do now?

If you have answered **yes to both questions on page 1**, and want to know more about the study please speak to the research nurse or mention it to the doctor/nurse you are about to see.

If you do not wish to know more about the study, it would help us if you felt you could tell us the reason, as this may help us with managing this study and in planning studies in the future. If you feel you can, please write these down below (together with your child's date of birth and your postcode) and then return this form to the research nurse in the waiting room.

REASONS _____

YOUR POSTCODE _____

CHILD'S DATE OF BIRTH / / _____

TODAY'S DATE / / _____

Thank you for considering taking part in this research.

Wendy Patterson

PITCH Study Co-ordinator.