PCRN
Primary Care Research Network
Northern and Yorkshire

30 May 2010

Practice Manager
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Dear Practice Manager

The CATHETER Trial (Types of urethral catheters for reducing symptomatic urinary tract infections in hospitalised adults requiring short-term catheterisation).

The CATHETER Trial is a multicentre UK trial, funded by the NHS HTA programme, which aims to establish the clinical benefits and cost-effectiveness of using antibiotic- (nitrofurazone) or antiseptic- (silver) impregnated urethral catheters over standard urethral catheters in hospitalised adults requiring short term (≤ 14 days) catheterisation. Participants are allocated to receive a standard Polytetraflouroethylene (PTFE) catheter, a nitrofurazone catheter or a silver catheter. Once the catheter has been removed patients are followed up for incidence of symptomatic urinary tract infections (UTI's). The Study started in July 2007 and closes in October 2010.

When a patient registered at your practice consented to participate in the study, an introductory letter about the trial and an information sheet was sent to the GP they nominated.

Once the patient has been discharged from hospital the trial office follows them up using questionnaires to determine whether the patient has experienced a urinary tract infection. We ask patients to report whether or not they have seen their GP, or nurse, in relation to a urinary tract infection and whether they received antibiotics for this infection. However, we believe that some participants may not have recorded this information correctly. As the main outcome of the CATHETER Trial is the number of symptomatic urinary tract infection post catheter removal, it is important that we strive to identify all further urinary tract infections accurately. For this reason, we are enclosing a list of all trial participants registered at your practice who have reported a potential urinary tract infection during a specified time period. We would be most grateful if you could consult your records and review the attached list to confirm, or refute, the included information. A reply-paid envelope is enclosed for the return of the document. We should also point out that we have the patients consent to check their medical records for the purposes of this trial.

With very many thanks for your help.

Yours sincerely

Professor James N'Dow
Chief Investigator