Additional File 6: Participant information sheet for process evaluation

A mixed-methods process evaluation of the '5 Rs to Rescue' quality improvement intervention.

Introduction

This Participant Information Sheet explains the process evaluation and what taking part will mean. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the evaluation.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Participation in this evaluation is voluntary and it is your choice to agree to be a part of the study or not. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide you want to take part, you will be asked to sign the consent section. By signing it you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent (agree) to take part in the process evaluation
- Consent to the evaluation that is described

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information and Consent Form to keep.

Background and purpose of this process evaluation

You are invited to take part in this evaluation because you work at a hospital participating in the '5 Rs to Rescue' project. You are a critically important voice in understanding the current status of post-surgical care at the hospital, what is required for post-surgical service improvement and capacity building, and the potential implications of this for yourself, your colleagues, and patients based on your experiences participating in '5 Rs to Rescue'.

Surgery is an important part of healthcare and worldwide; approximately 30% of illnesses, which can't be spread from person to person, require surgery. Over the past 10 years, there has been an increase in research into how to make surgery safe, affordable, and effective.

Quality improvement is a very important part of surgery and the healthcare system, and it includes a varied group of people. These people include patients, policymakers (all people involved in making decisions on how healthcare is provided to patients), allied services (such as laboratories, pharmacy, biotechnology), and healthcare workers and administrators like you.

The ultimate goal of our quality improvement project is to improve post-surgical services for the communities living in the African region. The '5 Rs to Rescue' study seeks to hear your perspective to inform how to adjust the initiative as we prepare to scale it to additional hospitals across Africa. Through talking about your experiences and exploring aspects of surgical capacity building at your hospital, we hope to understand some of the facilitators and barriers to improving surgical care and make the intervention more successful and easier to adopt.

This process evaluation is designed to directly benefit the patients of your hospital and wider community, but also to potentially provide a model for other African hospitals to improve their post-surgical services. In addition, taking part in this study could be important in helping the community to be more involved in healthcare and surgical delivery, for the benefit of the community in the future.

What would taking part involve?

One of the researchers will explain the evaluation process to you and, if you agree, ask you to sign a consent form. You will then be asked a set of questions which will be audio-recorded and transcribed (copied word-by-word). The interview will either be done in person at your workplace, or if preferred, by video call (such as ZOOM), or over the telephone. You will be asked a set of questions in a conversation with a member of the evaluation team.

You will first be asked questions about your demographics, role and length of service. Further questions will be focused on your opinion of the current post-surgical service delivered at your hospital, and your perspective and recommendation of what might be required to improve, extend, and sustain these services. You will be asked to consider both positive and negative implications and to give us reasons for your answers. The interview will be conducted in English.

Time commitment

The time commitment will be 30-45 minutes. We will also ask you if you are interested in the evaluation process, and if we can contact you in the future. This is entirely voluntary.

Information to be collected, and stored confidentially

The audio recordings and their transcripts will be stored securely. Any responses will be completely confidential; you will not be able to be identified from any evaluation outputs.

Who is organizing and funding the process evaluation?

This process evaluation is part of a larger evaluation of our "5Rs to Rescue" quality improvement project that is led by a team from South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia and the United Kingdom. The

project is funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) an organisation in the United Kingdom.

Will I get paid to take part in this study?

There is no reimbursement for this study.

Consent

It is up to you whether you decide to join the study. If you agree to take part, we will ask you to sign a consent form. You are free to leave the study at any time, without giving a reason. Whether or not you take part in the study, if you wish to complain, or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been treated during this study, you should ask to speak to your local team lead whose contact details are listed below.

In case you have any ethical concerns or questions about your rights or welfare as a participant in this research study, the Mbale Regional Referral Hospital Research Ethics Committee can be contacted on 039 3280 584 or the Ethics Committee Chairperson on 0761367859.

Contact details

For any further information you may require, please contact Dr Adam Hewitt-Smith (0776 951 665) or Dr Richard Gamubaka (0774 064 175).