



Which Automated Methodology?

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION LEAFLET

You are being invited to take part in a research study called Which Automated Methodology? (WhAM). Thank you for taking the time to read the following information. This leaflet explains why the research is being carried out, what is involved and how you can take part. You can also find this information on your general practice website. This information is also available in Polish, Romanian, Panjabi and Urdu.

What is the purpose of this research study?

The purpose of this study is to collect some brief research information using different digital methods. With an increase in the use of digital technology, this research will investigate if a website address and online questionnaire can make it easier for patients to get involved in research.

The research team have worked with patients and the public to ensure that this research is acceptable, and that the information being provided is understandable. Being involved in research can help to improve healthcare and patient choice.

Who is funding and organising this research study?

This research is being funded and organised by Keele Clinical Trials Unit (CTU), Keele University and the NIHR Clinical Research Network: West Midlands.

Why have I been asked to take part in this research study?

Several general practices across the West Midlands are taking part in this research study. You have been invited to take part, along with lots of other people because you are 18 years of age or older and we would like to collect information from people like you, to help us understand how people can best participate in health research.

What will I need to do if I take part in this research study?

The general practices hosting this study are using different methods to invite people to take part in this study. If you are aged 18 years or over, your general practice will have invited you to take part in the WhAM study, by completing the very short online WhAM questionnaire. By completing the online questionnaire and submitting your response, you are providing us with your informed consent to participate.

As many people as possible are needed to complete the very short online questionnaire over the next 2 weeks, in order that we can collect the brief research data. The questionnaire will take less than 5 minutes of your time to complete.

How will we use information about you?

It's up to you, whether you take part in this study or not. If you do choose to take part and complete the online questionnaire, your responses will go straight to Keele University and will be managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. We will need to use information from you for this research project. This information could include your NHS number and IP address. We will use this information to make sure that the research is being done properly. Data will be stored on Keele University storage services within the UK and protected by industry standard security tools. You can't be identified by the research team, from your responses. The research data you provide will not be shared with your GP. You are also free to withdraw or amend your response at any time, without giving a reason.

What are the possible benefits of taking part in this research study?

Although there are no direct benefits from taking part, you will be helping us to understand how people can best participate in research. Some people find it rewarding to take part in health research.

What should I do if I do not want to take part in this research study?

If you do not wish to take part by completing the very short online questionnaire, ignore the letter which you have received, or exit the online questionnaire without completing it or submitting it. If you do complete the online questionnaire and then wish to amend your answers, please contact the WhAM study team on **Telephone:** 01782 732916 or **Email:** ctu.operations@keele.ac.uk

If you choose not to take part, this will not affect your current or future health care you receive.

What are the risks of taking part in this research study?

There are no risks involved in taking part in this research study.

Our commitment to protecting your information (data)

If you do decide to take part in this research study, the information collected about you will be treated in strict confidence and in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

You can find out more about how we use your information at:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/informationgovernance/informationgovernanceforthepublic/>

What happens at the end of the research study?

The results of this research will be shared at national and international conferences and within publications in academic journals which are read by health professionals and those involved in coordinating research. You are not identifiable to the research team, and you will not be identifiable in any publication.

Has this research study been reviewed?

To protect your interests, all research in the NHS is looked at, before it starts, by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee who are part of the Health Research Authority (HRA). This research has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by the West Midlands – Coventry & Warwickshire Research Ethics Committee 23/WM/0132.

What if I have a query?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this research, you can discuss this with the WhAM study team on, **Telephone:** 01782 732916 or **Email:** ctu.operations@keele.ac.uk

Alternatively, you can contact NHS England;

Telephone: 0300 311 2233 or **Email:** england.contactus@nhs.net