



'What training in difficult news delivery do sonographers have and what impact do sonographers who regularly deliver difficult news think this has on their levels of wellbeing and burnout?

Participant Information Sheet

You are invited to take part in the above named research but before you decide whether you want to take part, please read the following information.

What is the purpose of the research?

Delivering difficult news to parents during a fetal ultrasound examination is a key aspect of an obstetric sonographer's role. This project will aim to understand how these experiences impact on sonographer burnout and wellbeing, and to identify which kinds of training may support sonographers with this aspect of care.

In particular, we would like to investigate i) the type and level of training sonographers in the UK have received on delivering difficult news, ii) how useful they find this, iii) whether there is ongoing support for sonographers who are delivering difficult news in clinical practice, iv) whether delivering difficult news on a regular basis is associated with higher sonographer burnout and poorer wellbeing, and v) whether enhanced training and support may reduce sonographer burnout, improve wellbeing and enhance patient experience.

The project will comprise two phases. The first phase will involve an online survey which will be advertised to UK sonographers via the Society and College of Radiographers, the voluntary sonographer register, the British Medical Ultrasound Society website and the Yorkshire Ultrasound Users Group. The survey will gather information regarding sonographer experiences of difficult news delivery, training and wellbeing. The second phase will involve interviewing individual sonographers who have agreed to participate in order to gain further insight into their experiences. If you do not wish to participate in this follow up study, please ensure that you indicate this on the questionnaire.

The findings will be used to inform the second phase will involve semi-structured qualitative phone interviews with a subset of respondents to the first phase. Ethical approval will be sought for this separately.

Who is doing the study?

This study is being conducted by Jane Arezina, lecturer at the University of Leeds in collaboration with Anne-Marie Dixon, Judith Johnson, both also at the University of Leeds and Alison McGuinness, Consultant Sonographer at the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust. The research has been funded by a College of Radiographers Industrial Partnership Scheme Research Grant and by the University of Leeds.

Who is being asked to participate?

Any sonographer will be able to participate in this study.

What will be involved if I take part in this study?

If you decide to take part in the study, you will be asked to complete an online survey which will gather information regarding sonographer experiences of difficult news delivery, training and wellbeing.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking part?

There are no immediate benefits or risks to you if you take part in the study. However, you will be contributing data which will extend the existing limited body of knowledge on the subject of delivering difficult news (Menezes et al, 2013), which currently almost exclusively focuses on obstetricians. The project will focus specifically on sonographers rather than doctors and aim to understand their unique role in delivering difficult news to patients. The study findings will provide a platform for further research developing and testing training interventions for supporting sonographers with the delivery of difficult news.

Can I withdraw from the study at any time?

Your participation in this study is voluntary - you will be able to withdraw from the study at any time prior to the point when the data is anonymised. For participants who agree to be contacted for the follow up study, the data will not be anonymised until after that study has been completed. For participants who do not wish to participate in the follow up study, the data will be fully anonymised 2 weeks after you have completed the survey. After this it will not be possible to extract your data from the study as we will not know which responses are yours. Please contact one of the researchers if you wish to withdraw from the study.

Will the information I give be kept confidential?

Study data will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. Only the researchers will have access to your data. All data will be anonymous - you do not have to divulge your name or exact place of work to participate. No individual or individual service unit will be identifiable in any presented or published results of the survey. All data downloaded from Bristol Online Surveys® will be kept confidential and secure on University of Leeds password protected computers and will be destroyed 5 years after the study is completed.

What will happen to the results of the survey?

The results of the survey will be submitted for publication to a peer reviewed journal and proffered for presentation at British Medical Ultrasound Society (BMUS) Scientific Meeting. The results will also inform further research planned by the investigating team at the University of Leeds.

Who has reviewed this study?

Ethical approval for this survey has been granted by the School of Medicine Research Ethics Committee, approval date: 13/02/2017; approval number: MREC16-033.

If you agree to take part please proceed to the online survey which can be accessed at:

<https://leeds.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/what-training-in-difficult-news-delivery-do-sonographers-h>

Or scan the QR code below: -



If you would like more information or have any questions or concerns about the study please contact: Jane Arezina, Lecturer in Medical Ultrasound, 8.001b Worsley Building, University of Leeds, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, LS2 9JT. Telephone: 0113 343 9623. Email: j.arezina@leeds.ac.uk
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Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.

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