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1. Background to the study

We all need to make decisions about our health and treatments, and health and health research are often in the news. Information about treatments is sometimes confusing or hard to understand. To make it easier to understand for people making a decision about a treatment, we would like members of the public to test some different ways health research information can be presented.

The DECIDE project (<http://www.decide-collaboration.eu>) is working to find ways to present information about treatments to all the people involved in making healthcare decisions, including patients and their families, healthcare managers, doctors, nurses and other health professionals. This is an important part of providing high quality health care.

3. What do we want to do?

We have prepared some information on using the following treatments: antibiotics for middle ear infection; aspirin for primary prevention of cardiovascular disease; warfarin for atrial fibrillation. This information is based on the best research about treatment options for these health problems. We have prepared different ways of presenting this information. What we would like to do is show you information about one of these topics and get your opinion on how helpful the information is. It doesn't matter whether you have ever had the health problem or not. This is not a test; we are interested in your opinions.

Completing the study takes around 15 minutes.

4. Why have you been asked to take part?

You have been invited to take part because you are on the SHARE register (<http://www.registerforshare.org>).

5. What are the benefits of taking part?

We aim to ask thousands of people to give their opinion, which will give a good idea of what works and what doesn't. Taking part in the study won't lead to an immediate benefit for you personally. However, it will help organisations that produce health information improve the way they do this. This may be helpful to you in the future when you, or others, are making real decisions about treatments that affect you.

6. Will my taking part in this research study be kept confidential?

Yes. We are only asking for your opinions; we are not asking you to tell us anything about any health problems you may have had. The information we collect will be kept securely by the research team and will be held for up to ten years after completion of the study to support future research.

7. What will happen to the results of the study?

The results will be published on the SHARE website for you to see. They will also be presented to guideline organisations and others through scientific documents, presentations and meetings. It will be impossible for you to be identified in any of these documents and meetings. The results will be used to guide the way health information is presented in the future.

8. Who is organising and funding the study?

The study is based in the Health Services Research Unit at the University of Aberdeen but involves collaboration with other partners in the DECIDE project, especially the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (<http://www.kunnskapssenteret.no/en/frontpage>). The work is funded by the European Union, grant number 258583.

9. Who has reviewed the study?

The work of DECIDE has been peer-reviewed by external reviewers as part of the European Union 7th Framework Programme. The University of Aberdeen Life Sciences and Medicine College Research Ethics Board has prepared a checklist, which classes this work as very low risk and it therefore does not need formal review by their committee. The work will be conducted in accordance with the Ethical Review and Governance Framework of the University of Aberdeen.

10. Where can I get more information?

The chief investigator is Prof Shaun Treweek, Professor of Health Services Research, University of Aberdeen. You can get further information by emailing him at DECIDE_iSoF@icloud.com or by telephoning 0775 614 4998.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and for considering taking part in this study.