Participant Information Sheet

Section A: The Study

Title of study

National Delphi Study to define research priorities in UK pre-hospital critical care

Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to establish national research priorities for pre-hospital critical care. The study will allow the researchers to identify the most important research questions which will guide future research across the United Kingdom, helping improve pre-hospital emergency care delivery. This will be undertaken as a Delphi study.

Brief summary of study

Delphi studies typically involve a series of anonymous online surveys, known as 'rounds', with feedback provided to participants after each round. Participants are usually experts on the topic of interest and the aim is to reach consensus among participants. This Delphi Study comprises two anonymous online surveys with a final face to face meeting (which may be held online depending on current COVID restrictions) that will be used to establish national research priorities in pre-hospital critical care. Participants will be initially asked to suggest up to eight research questions which they believe are important in the future advancement of pre-hospital critical care. In the second round, these questions will be circulated, having been refined and categorised. Participants will be asked to score these questions on several domains relating to factors such as their clinical importance, scientific merit and feasibility of future study. At the final face to face meeting, the final research questions will be discussed and further scored, with the top ten subsequently ranked to give a final top ten list of research priorities in pre-hospital critical care

Who is the researcher?

This study is being undertaken by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh's Pre-Hospital Trainee Operated Research Network (PHOTON) in collaboration with Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and Anglia Ruskin University. PHOTON is a trainee-led network of doctors, paramedics and other clinicians interested in the delivery of collaborative research in the field of pre-hospital emergency care. The current chair is Dr Lisa Ramage, who is the Chief Investigator for this project.

Why have I been asked to participate?

You have been asked to participate on the basis that you have expertise within pre-hospital critical care. Your opinions are valued by the study researchers and will be of critical importance in the attainment of this study's aims to identify these future key research priorities.

You may have also been asked as a patient representative to provide input, so that public involvement is included on deciding research priorities for UK Critical Care services.

How many people will be asked to participate?
This study will seek to engage with clinicians from all Critical Care services within the UK, including 21 Air Ambulance Services as well as numerous BASICs teams. We expect to recruit at least 100 participants for phases 1 and 2. A number of participants will also be invited to participate in phase 3, which will be held as a face to face meeting if possible or online if Covid restrictions are still in place at the time of the meeting. Patient input will include up to three patients regarded as experts in this field, who have been identified by the study's Patient and Public Involvement group.

Do I have to take part?
Your participation is completely voluntary, and consent to take part can be withdrawn at any point without reason. **You should not be coerced or convinced to join or remain in the study.** If you do not wish to receive any further communications about the study, please let the researchers know (PHOTONchair@rcsed.net).

What are the likely benefits of taking part?
Taking part will give you the opportunity to contribute to the development of national research priorities in pre-hospital critical care. This is a really exciting project, and there has been no similar work completed since 2011 within Europe. Ultimately, this project will be of benefit to a large number of patients receiving pre-hospital critical care across the UK, as subsequent research findings from studies relating to these identified research priorities will be used to inform clinical and operational practice and improve clinical care.

Has the study got ethical approval?
Yes, the study has received ethical approval from the School of Allied Health, Nursing & Midwifery & Medicine Research Ethics Panel at Anglia Ruskin University (reference AH-SREP-20-100).

Has the organisation where you are carrying out the study given permission?
Yes, permission to conduct the study has been provided by the Chair of PHOTON and by Essex & Herts Air Ambulance.

Source of funding for the research.
The work on this study is conducted by volunteers, therefore no funding is required.

What will happen to the results of the study?
The results will be consolidated into the top ten topics that require priority research, which will be generated from the final consensus meeting. Findings will also be disseminated through submission of a paper to a peer-reviewed scientific journal in the field of emergency medicine or pre-hospital care and at scientific meetings and conferences. The study will be published according to guidelines for the Delphi Survey Technique. The data collected will be managed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR Regulation (EU) 2016/679).

Contact for further information
For further information about this study please contact Dr Lisa Ramage, PHOTON Chair, on PHOTONchair@RCSED.net.

Section B: Your Participation in the Study

What will I be asked to do?
If you decide to take part in the study, you will initially be asked to express your interest and provide some brief information about yourself through a secure Online Survey platform. This information will be used to create a 'mailing list' for the study and will not be linked with responses to rounds 1 and 2 of the study. You will then be asked to participate in two anonymous online rounds. A link to each round will be emailed to you. Each round will be open for responses for three weeks. Reminder emails will be sent to everyone invited to participate at 14 days after initial dissemination and three days before survey closure. These will be sent to all participants as we will not know who has completed each round.

It is preferable if you participate in both rounds but you may still take part in the second round if you have not responded to the earlier survey. You will be presented with a series of consent questions when you first take part and you will be asked to answer some questions about your experience in pre-hospital care, including any previous research experience. You will then be asked to suggest up to eight research questions that you feel are most important to be addressed in order to advance the care provided to patients treated by pre-hospital care teams. Further guidance will be provided in the survey and examples will be given for participants who may be less familiar with the format of research questions.

After the first round, the researchers will collate the responses and remove duplicates. The refined list of questions will then be categorised and sent back to you for Round 2, in which you will be asked to rate each question. Free text boxes will be provided for any comments that you wish to make. Following Round 2, the questions that have met the pre-determined consensus thresholds will be identified and brought forward to phase 3.

You may also be invited to take part in a third round of the study. Round 3 will take place as a face to face (or online, depending on COVID restrictions) meeting with a smaller representative group of Subject Matter Experts. You will previously have been given an opportunity to indicate whether you would like to be involved in this final round and we will not approach you about this if you have indicated that you do not wish to take part. We will aim to have national representation from all pre-hospital care services, with a mixture of clinical backgrounds. We will also aim to have Patient and Public Involvement across the study. Participants will initially be divided into subgroups and asked to review a category of questions. A summary of comments from previous rounds will also be provided. After this, each category will be discussed in turn with the whole Subject Matter Expert group. You will be asked to give a final overall score to each question, ranking their importance from 1-9. This will be done using an anonymous voting software. This will allow us to identify the highest scoring

questions. Finally, the highest scoring questions will be discussed, and you will be asked to rank these from 1-10 to generate a top ten list of research priorities.

In relation to this specific research project, we need to make you aware of the following:

☐	We do not need your personal data at any stage of this research project		
We are responsible for the personal data you give to us as a:			
☐	**Data Controller** (We are in sole control over the research)	Who are we?:	Anglia Ruskin University
x	**Joint Controller** (Where ARU and another organisation are working together on research)	with:	Essex & Herts Air Ambulance and the Pre-Hospital Trainee Operated Research Network
☐	**Data Processor** (Where the data will belong to another organisation and ARU is being engaged under contract/ agreement to conduct the research and provide an outcome but has no rights over the personal data)	on behalf of:	

3. **I will be asking you for the following information:**

Personal Data				Sensitive Personal data	
x	Name/ Contact details	☐	Image (Photo or video)	☐	Racial/ Ethnicity data
☐	Age	x	Experiences	☐	Political/ Religious beliefs
x	Address/location data	x	Opinions	☐	Trade Union membership
☐	Employment & Earnings	☐		☐	Genetic/ Biometric data
☐	ID Numbers (e.g. NHS)	☐		☐	Health
☐	Online identifier	☐		☐	Sex life/ orientation data

Will my participation in the study be kept confidential?
Yes, the Delphi surveys are anonymous so the researchers and your colleagues will not know that you have taken part unless you choose to disclose this. We will ask you to provide a self-generated anonymous identifier in each round, formed of the last two letters of your postal code and the day of your birthday (e.g. PH23), to enable us to link responses across the rounds. However, we would like to collect information on the job roles and pre-hospital care research experience of participants so that we can describe the study sample in reports,

publications and presentations of the findings. This may increase the likelihood that you could be identified in study outputs by your colleagues or peers. If you do not wish to provide information on your job role or pre-hospital care research experience, you will be free to skip those items in the survey. If you choose to take part in the third round of the study, your participation will no longer be anonymous. However, the voting process will remain anonymous and you will be given the option of being acknowledged in outputs from the study such as research papers and presentations. Access to the study data will be limited to members of the research team through storage in an electronic folder with restricted permissions on a secure network drive.

Are there any possible disadvantages or risks to taking part?

Participation in the study will take up some of your time. However, the online nature of the first two rounds of the study means that you can take part in these at a time and place convenient to you. As mentioned above, although participation is anonymous, the collection of information on specific job roles and experience of participants increases the risk that you may be identified by colleagues or peers. To mitigate this risk, these survey items will not be mandatory and you are free to choose whether you wish to provide this information.

The face to face element of the third round would potentially mean the need to travel, unless COVID restrictions mean this is conducted online. Taking part in the third round would also mean that your participation would no longer be anonymous.

Can I withdraw at any time, and how?

You can withdraw from the study at any time and without giving a reason. If you wish to withdraw, simply do not complete any further rounds of the study. Please note that as a result of the anonymous nature of the surveys, it will not be possible to withdraw any data that you have provided. If you do not wish to receive further communications about the study, please let the researchers know via PHOTONchair@rcsed.net.

What will happen to the data collected from me?

The data collected will be managed and stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR Regulation (EU) 2016/679). The Delphi surveys will be created using the tool 'Online Surveys', which is fully compliant with all UK data protection laws. Data will be downloaded from Online Surveys by the Research Fellow after each round and transferred to databases in Excel and IBM SPSS Statistics software version 24.0. Access to the databases will be limited to members of the research team through storage in an electronic folder on secure network drives at Anglia Ruskin University and Essex & Herts Air Ambulance, with restricted permissions. At the end of the project, the study database will be deposited into an institutional data repository to be preserved safely and securely in accordance with legal and ethical obligations, with accurate and reliable metadata to describe the dataset. In line with Anglia Ruskin University's Data Management Policy, the data will be retained for a minimum of ten years from deposit, with five-yearly reviews to decide whether to continue to preserve or to destroy the data. Where a decision is taken to destroy the data, it will be securely destroyed within three months of that decision.

Our general privacy notice explaining our use of your personal data for research purposes is available here:

https://www.anglia.ac.uk/privacy-and-cookies/research-participants

Please visit this link for information about how long we keep your data, how we keep your data secure, how you can exercise your rights over your data, and make a complaint over our use of your data.

Contact details for complaints

If you have any complaints about the study, please contact the PHOTON Chair who is Chief Investigator for this study (Dr Lisa Ramage, PHOTONchair@rcsed.net 07872564002) in the first instance. You can also contact the Office of the Secretary and Clerk, Anglia Ruskin University, Bishop Hall Lane, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 1SQ or complaints@anglia.ac.uk.