



The Royal College of
Chiropractors

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

Study Title

Evidence-based chiropractic: a prospective survey of interventions in a sample of UK chiropractors.

Invitation paragraph

I would like to invite you to take part in a research study. Before you decide you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Ask questions if anything you read is not clear or would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not to take part.

What is the purpose of the study?

Chiropractic has in the past been criticised for not using up to date research to inform its treatments. We are trying to find out if this is true or not. We are asking a number of chiropractors across the country to tell us what conditions they are treating and with what types of treatments. We hope to do two things with this information; firstly we hope to be able to make some conclusions about exactly what chiropractors do in their offices and also what proportion of their work is informed by the latest research.

Why have I been invited?

You have been selected because you are a new patient to your chiropractor. We are asking your chiropractor to select every new patient they see in a single month and to report what conditions they have diagnosed and what treatments they are offering.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide. We will describe the study and go through the information sheet, which we will give to you. We will then ask you to sign a consent form to show you agreed to take part. You are free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason. If you decide that you do not want to participate this will not affect the standard of care you receive.

What will happen to me if I take part?

You will not have to do anything apart from sign your consent form.

Your chiropractor will fill out a simple survey for each of your visits for a month and tick what condition you are being treated for and what treatments you are being treated with.

Your name will not appear on any of the forms because the chiropractor will assign a code to your name which only they will know. Your confidentiality will be assured.

Your treatment will be exactly the same regardless of whether you decide to take part in the study or not.

What will I have to do?

You will have to do nothing. Your chiropractor will do all the work!

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

It is difficult to see that there are any disadvantages of taking part in the study.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

We cannot promise the study will help you but the information we get from the study will help to increase the understanding of what chiropractors actually do in their clinics.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the lead researcher, Keith Walker who will do his best to answer your questions (01752 727297, study@peninsulaclinic.co.uk).

If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally you can do this through the Royal College of Chiropractors, 0118 946 9727

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Any information collected during the project will be subject to the Data Protection Act 1998. As such your confidentiality will be safeguarded during and after the project.

This means that any data we collect will be stored securely on our servers and encrypted. The only people who will have access to it will be the researchers and administrative staff directly involved with the project.

Your name will be replaced by a code known only to your chiropractor.

Individual participant questionnaires will be anonymous and given a research code, known only to the researcher.

Paper data will be stored in a locked cabinet, within locked office, accessed only by researcher. Electronic data will be stored on a password-protected computer known only by researcher

The data you give us will then be analysed and once we have finished that process it will be destroyed.

What will happen if I don't carry on with the study?

If you withdraw from the study part way through the information and data collected about you for the purpose of this research, to date, will be destroyed and your name removed from all the study files. Your treatment with your chiropractor will be unaffected and he/she will keep your clinical notes as normal so that your care can be continued should you wish.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

We will hope to publish the results of the findings of the report in a journal. This is obviously subject to the paper being accepted. We shall also hope to present the findings to chiropractic conferences and the conferences of other interested professions. At the end of the project we will summarise the main findings of the report. If you would like a copy of the report please email the lead researcher Keith Walker at study@peninsulaclinic.co.uk.

Who is organising or sponsoring the research?

This research is being sponsored by the Royal College of Chiropractic and the lead researcher is being paid by them to complete the work.

Further information and contact details:

The contact for this research is

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Ethical approval for the study was granted by University of South Wales.