**Opportunity to be involved in research: getting medicines during lockdown**

***Opportunity for involvement***

We are inviting you to take part in a project on the challenges in getting medicines during lockdown. We are interested in people taking medicines to treat or prevent heart disease. These include medicines to lower blood pressure, to lower cholesterol (statins), to control an irregular heartbeat, or medicines to thin the blood such as aspirin.

Further information about the opportunity is provided below. If you would like to be involved, please contact Francesca Crowe (details below) by 31/05/2020.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Proposed study title | Challenges faced during lockdown on obtaining medication for the primary or secondary prevention of circulatory and heart disease. |
| Type of project | The project uses a range of research methods, including qualitative research (asking people their views in small groups and interviews) and quantitative research (analysing electronic health records to see whether there has been any change in prescriptions). |
| Aim of project | The project aims to find out what challenges people have faced during lockdown in obtaining medications that help prevent or treat heart disease. These include (but are not limited to) any difficulties in the following:   * seeing your GP * obtaining repeat prescriptions * getting to a pharmacy to obtain your prescription * signing up to an online pharmacy to get the medicines delivered to you * problems with the pharmacy running low in stock of your medicines * any change in your adherence to these medicines   We will also look at electronic health records to see whether there has been any changes in the rates of prescription of these medicines during lockdown and whether people are having more heart attacks and strokes. |
| Involvement Opportunity | Researchers from the University of Birmingham are applying to the British Heart Foundation to fund a project on the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on circulatory and heart disease.  The researchers would like to understand perspectives from people with experience of obtaining medicines to prevent or treat heart disease during lockdown. |
| Commitment involved | The researcher would like to discuss the project with public contributors. Discussions are likely to last between 15-30 minutes.  Due to COVID-19, discussions would be through telephone or using video conferencing platform (e.g. Zoom, Skype).  If the project gets funded there may be an opportunity for you to contribute further and you will be reimbursed for your time. |
| Further information | Please contact us to find out more about this opportunity.  Name: Dr Francesca Crowe  Telephone: 07733450666  Email: F.Crowe@bham.ac.uk |

If you are interested in this study, we look forward to hearing from you.

***What is public involvement in research?***

Public involvement in research is research done ‘with’ or ‘by’ members of the public rather than ‘to’, ‘about’ or ‘for’ them (NIHR INVOLVE).

NIHR INVOLVE have produced some information for people what want to get involved in research. You can find our more here:

<https://www.invo.org.uk/find-out-more/what-is-public-involvement-in-research-2/>

***Statement on Diversity and Inclusion***

We adopt the [NIHR Statement on Diversity and Inclusion](https://www.invo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/INVOLVEs-Diversity-and-Inclusion-Statement.pdf):

The promotion of diversity and inclusion is the responsibility of all members of our community. It is expected that we will all contribute to ensuring that INVOLVE continues to be a safe, welcoming and productive environment, where there is equality of opportunity, fostered in an environment of mutual respect and dignity.

The concept of diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique, recognising and appreciating our differences and commonalities.

We understand that simply having diversity in our work force is not enough; we must create an inclusive environment for all across the research system.

We value the uniqueness and talents, beliefs, backgrounds, capabilities and ways of working of all individuals, joined in a common endeavour, to create a culture of belonging.