Date

Name
Address

Dear Mr / Mrs

Re: PARAMEDIC Study

We are sending you this information because you were recently taken to hospital after having a cardiac arrest (when your heart stopped).

The prognosis of cardiac arrest is generally poor with less than 1 in 20 people surviving. Because of this, ambulance services are looking at ways of improving outcomes. A new device, called LUCAS (Lund University Cardiopulmonary Assistance System) has been developed and approved for use with cardiac arrest patients, and some initial information suggests that using it may lead to better outcomes. The Ambulance Service that treated you has received permission to carry out a research study to test this device, called the PARAMEDIC study. You were enrolled in this study at the time of your cardiac arrest. Because you lost consciousness rapidly, we were unable to obtain your consent to participate in the study at that time. The urgent need for treatment also meant that we were unable to discuss your participation in the study with any relatives or close friends.

Part of the routine treatment for a cardiac arrest involves compressing the chest repeatedly (about 100 times per minute) to keep blood circulating around the body. The standard method of doing this is by hand (manual chest compression), and the PARAMEDIC study is comparing this standard treatment with mechanical chest compressions provided by the LUCAS device.

We are writing to you now to inform you about your enrolment in this study and to allow you the opportunity to contact us to discuss your participation in the study. We would also like to invite you to consider participating in the follow-up part of the study. Follow-up from the study would involve being contacted and visited by a researcher from the co-ordinating centre which is based at the University of Warwick. In brief, the follow-up part of the study will involve completing questionnaires at approximately 3 and 12 months after your cardiac arrest.

In order for us to be able to put you in touch with the researchers at the University of Warwick we require your permission to pass on your contact details. This can be done by contacting us by telephone, email or completing the reply slip to this letter and returning in the pre-paid addressed envelope.

If you are not able to respond in person and you would like someone to act on your behalf please give this person's name and details on the reply slip.

If you wish to discuss the contents of this letter then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Name
Paramedic
West Midlands / Welsh Ambulance Service

Contact details

Ambulance Service:
Name:
Address:
Telephone number:
Study website: [to be added]

PERMISSION TO PASS ON CONTACT DETAILS TO RESEARCH TEAM
ID for study (pre-populated):

Name (pre-populated)
Address (pre-populated)

Please amend if any details are incorrect

I am responding on behalf of [patient name] and will be assisting [patient name] in completing the follow up for this study [ ]
Name of person representing [patient name] (pre-populated)
Address (if different to above)

I give my permission for you to pass on my contact details to the research team at the University of Warwick [ ]

I do NOT give my permission for you to pass on my contact details to the research team at the University of Warwick [ ]

The best way to contact me is by:

Post [ ]
Telephone [ ] .....Please provide contact number : _____
Email [ ] ..... Please provide email address: _____

Please return in the reply paid envelope

Alternatively you may contact us by phone on : TBC

Or email: paramedictrial@warwick.ac.uk