

**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Title of Project:** **Exploring the impact of non-medical prescribing on the role identity of physiotherapists**

**Name of Researcher (s):**

**Colin Waldock, Dr T Thomas, Prof J Billings, Prof B Singh**

You are being invited to take part in a study because you are a member of the public and therefore may encounter physiotherapy and physiotherapists as part of a treatment programme. Before you decide if you want to take part, you must understand why the study is being done and what it involves. Please take time to read the following information. Ask if anything is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide if you want to take part or not.

**Why is the study being done?**

The law states that only certain health care professionals are legally able to prescribe. Most people know that doctors and dentists can write prescriptions for their patients but for many years now other health care professionals such as nurses and pharmacists can do so too, provided they have undertaken appropriate training. This is referred to as non-medical prescribing or independent prescribing and it has been shown to be beneficial for patients and the health services alike. Since 2005 physiotherapists have been able to qualify as non-medical prescribers, and since 2013 physiotherapists have been allowed to train as independent prescribers, however there has not been a lot of physiotherapists undertaking the training unlike nurses and pharmacists. Currently approximately only 3% of qualified Physiotherapists have a non-medical prescribing qualification. This study seeks to explore the views of the public about the role identity of physiotherapists and in particular their perceptions of them as prescribers

**Do I have to take part?**

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. Even if you agree to take part, you can change your mind at any time without giving any reason. If you decide not to take part in the study, you will not be affected in any way.

**If I do take part, what would I have to do and what would be done to me?**

You will be invited to take part in an interview with the lead researcher. The Interview will be face to face, skype, or telephone and held at a mutually convenient time and place and will be audio recorded for the purpose of accuracy in transcription. We may want to make further contact with some people approximately 3 months after the first interview. This is to discuss ideas generated by the interviews.

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to sign a consent form for each interview

**Are there any risks if I take part?**

There are no risks to taking part in the study

**Are there any benefits if I take part?**

Involvement in this study will enable you to have a role in helping us to understand better the opinions of people outside of physiotherapy regarding what physiotherapy is. You will also be able to voice your thoughts surrounding the concept of physiotherapy independent prescribing. This study forms part of a larger piece of work seeking to understand better the role identity of physiotherapists, and how non-medical prescribing may be influencing this.

**Will anyone know that I’ve taken part?**

We will not tell anyone that you have taken part in the study.

**What will happen to the results?**

The findings will be published in peer reviewed journals and presented at conferences. Your name will not appear in any publications. Anonymised data may be used for future work e.g. post doctoral research.

All data will be held securely in lockable filing cabinets and using laptops and portable memory devices that are password protected with up to date virus software installed. No identifiable data will be stored on laptops or university computers. Hard copies of consent forms will be kept for 5 years in a locked cabinet to which only the researcher has access. At the end of this time they will be shredded.

Participants will be offered a summary of the results via a summary posted on the study website <https://cwaldock-551.wixsite.com>. Data for the study will be held securely for 5 years after the cessation of the project and then sent to a secure storage facility.

**Who is Organising and Funding the study?**

This study is being carried out by Colin Waldock in part fulfilment of a PhD at Medway School of Pharmacy. It is being funded by a studentship with the Medway School of Pharmacy (Universities of Kent and Greenwich)

**Who should I contact if I want to know more about the study?**

Dr Trudy Thomas t.thomas@kent.ac.uk Colin’s PhD supervisor

Colin Waldock c.waldock-551@kent.ac.uk

**Who should I contact if I have any concerns about the study or the way it has been conducted?**

If you have concerns about how this research study has been conducted please contact the Chair of the MSoP Research Ethics Committee on S.A.Corlett@kent.ac.uk

**General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Privacy notice for research – University-level**

The University of Kent uses personally-identifiable information to conduct research, including to improve health, care and services. As a publicly-funded organisation, we have to ensure that we use and safeguard your data according to the law. You can find more information or contact The University of Kent’s Data Protection Officer at: https://www.kent.ac.uk/infocompliance/dp/staff-info/staff-info.html

**Thank you for taking time to consider taking part in this study.**

This project has been looked at and approved by the MSoP Research Ethics Committee