



**Health Sciences School
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Participant Information Sheet

Research Project:

Slurring of speech management practices and future treatment directions: Views of Speech-language therapists, persons with slurring of speech and medical device manufacturers

Main Researcher:

Pasquale Balzan, Division of Human Communication Sciences, University of Sheffield

Research Supervisors:

Dr Catherine Tattersall, Division of Human Communication Sciences, University of Sheffield

Dr Rebecca Palmer, School of Health and Related Research, University of Sheffield

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am currently undertaking this study as part of my postgraduate doctoral degree in Human Communication Sciences degree at the University of Sheffield.

I would like to invite you to take part. Before you decide if you would like to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being undertaken and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and to discuss it with others if you wish. You are welcome to contact me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like further information. Thank you for reading this information sheet.

What is the projects' purpose?

Dysarthria, commonly referred to as slurring of speech, is a frequent consequence of neurological disease. Although slurred speech is the most frequent communication difficulty

in adults, there is limited research investigating treatment practices. This study aims to measure the views of speech-language therapists and persons with dysarthria with current treatment practices for slurring of speech. We are also interested in understanding whether speech-language clinicians, persons with dysarthria and medical device manufacturers would be interested in participating in research involving new treatment opportunities.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen because you have slurring of speech (dysarthria).

Who can take part in the study?

Persons with slurring of speech can take part in the study if they:

1. Are 18 years of age or older
2. Their slurring of speech occurred because of a neurological disease, such as stroke or Parkinson's disease
3. Have attended speech-language therapy to treat their slurring of speech

Persons with slurring of speech cannot take part in this study if:

1. Their slurring of speech occurred at birth or during early development

Do I have to take part?

Your participation in this project is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether to take part. Unless you optionally provide us with your e-mail address, data will be collected anonymously. Hence, once the questionnaire is completed, withdrawal from participation is not possible as there is no way to link your responses to the data collected.

What do I have to do if I take part?

If you wish to take part, you will need to complete an online questionnaire. The link for the survey is included in the e-mail containing the information sheet.

This survey takes 10 to 15 minutes to complete, depending on your responses.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

There are no foreseeable disadvantages for you taking part in this project, the study will take up some of your valuable time.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

Whilst there are no immediate benefits for those participating in the project, it is hoped that this project will help us understand how speech-language therapists and persons with slurring of speech view current therapy methods for slurring of speech and whether they would be interested in participating in research involving new therapy methods.

Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?

All the information collected from the survey will remain strictly confidential. You will be asked not to identify yourselves or third parties. All electronic data will be collected on Qualtrics, an encrypted survey platform. All extracted data will be rendered anonymous and will be stored in a password protected and encrypted university online drive.

Due to the nature of this research, it is very likely that we will carry out further studies on acquired dysarthria. Hence, we will be offering you the possibility to provide us voluntarily and optionally with your e-mail address. Rest assured that this data will be rendered anonymous and stored in the university online drive. This data will remain strictly confidential and will only be accessible to the research team. It will only be used by the main researcher and will not be shared with others.

All data will be securely stored for 10 years after completion of the doctoral degree and then destroyed.

What happens if the research study stops earlier than expected?

If for any reason this occurs, data collection procedures will be terminated and collected data will be destroyed.

What will happen to the results of the research project?

The results of the project will be used in written reports for the University of Sheffield. Results can also be published in research journals. In both written reports and publications, names and other identifiable personal information will not be used.

What is the legal basis for processing my personal data?

According to data protection legislation, we are required to inform you that the legal basis we are applying in order to process your personal data is that 'processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest' (Article 6(1)(e)). Further information can be found in the University's Privacy Notice <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/govern/data-protection/privacy/general>.

As we will be collecting some data that is defined in the legislation as more sensitive (information about your health), we also need to let you know that we are applying the

following condition in law: that the use of your data is necessary for scientific research purposes.

Who is the Data Controller?

The University of Sheffield will act as the Data Controller for this study. This means that the University is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

Who has ethically reviewed the project?

This project has been ethically approved via the University of Sheffield's Ethics Review Procedure, as administered by Division of Human Communication Sciences.

What if something goes wrong and I wish to complain about the research?

Should you have any concerns about any aspect of this project, you may contact the project supervisors, Dr Catherine Tattersall on +44(0)1142222446, or email her at c.tattersall@sheffield.ac.uk, or Dr Rebecca Palmer, on +44 (0)1142220863 or r.l.palmer@sheffield.ac.uk.

If you would like to speak to someone not related to the project you can contact the Head of Division of Human Communication Sciences: Dr Judy Clegg, telephone: 0044 114 22 2450, email: j.clegg@sheffield.ac.uk. If you are not satisfied with the way your concerns have been dealt with, then you can contact the Dean of School, Professor Tracey Moore, to make a complaint: tracey.moore@sheffield.ac.uk or 0114 22 22 056.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you would like further information, please contact myself on pbalzan1@sheffield.ac.uk. Alternatively you can contact the project supervisors.

Thank you for considering taking part in this project.

Sincerely,



Pasquale Balzan
Doctoral Researcher
Division of Human Communication Sciences
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