Exploring Opportunities and Challenges to Supporting Trialists' Behaviours for Greener Trials

1. Introduction

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others, such as your work supervisor, if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether you wish to take part. Thank you for reading this.

2. What is the purpose of this study?

This research study is interested in exploring factors that influence trialists' behaviours and attitudes in relation to the design, delivery, reporting and analysis of greener trials. When we refer to 'greener trials' we mean clinical trials that are designed and delivered without unnecessary and unjustified carbon emissions.

3. Why have you been invited?

You have been invited to take part in this survey as you have been or are currently involved in study trials and have indicated you have experience of using trial methods research. If you agree to take part in this survey, we will ask you some specific questions about factors that influence your behaviour in relation to the design, delivery, reporting and analysis of greener trials in **Part A,** as well as your attitude to climate change risks in **Part B**. We will also ask for some personal information together with general questions about your experience and your understanding of trial-related carbon emissions in **Part C**.

4. Do I have to take part?

It is your decision about whether or not you wish to take part. If you do agree to take part and then change your mind, you can withdraw at any time without giving a reason however, the data you have provided to that point would still be included in any analysis.

5. What will happen next?

If you would like to take part, please click the 'next' tab at the bottom of this page which will take you directly to the questionnaire. The questionnaire will take 15 to 20 minutes to complete. All information which is collected about you during the course of this study will be kept strictly confidential. If you agree to participate in this survey, you may be invited to participate in a follow-up focus group / interview linked to this research.

6. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part in this study?

We do not anticipate there to be any risks associated with participating in this survey. Giving up your time to contribute to a discussion which could be an inconvenience.

7. What are the possible advantages of taking part in this study?

While you may receive no benefit personally, the information we get from this study will help inform the design and delivery of greener trials.

8. How will we use information about you?

We will need to use information from you for this research project. This information will include your:

- age,
- gender,
- ethnic group,
- work base,
- years and areas of experience in the field of clinical trials

People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly. We will keep all information about you safe and secure by:

- conducting the survey on a platform which conforms with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and are approved by the University of Aberdeen;
- encrypting and storing the survey data in secured folders held on the university's network.

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study. We will keep your study data, including transcripts and recordings, for a maximum of 10 years. The study data will then be fully anonymized and securely archived or destroyed.

9. What are your choices about how your information is used?

- You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have.
- We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won't be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

10. Where can you find out more about how your information is used?

You can find out more about how we use your information

- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to the Information Governance Team of the University of Aberdeen at dpa@abdn.ac.uk or
- by ringing us on 01224 272596.

11. What will happen to the results of the study?

We will use the results of this study to help make decisions about future research in this area. We may also report the findings in a scientific journal and at scientific research meetings. The information that we report would be completely anonymous and would not identify you in any way.

12. What ethical and data permissions are in place?

This study has been reviewed and received favourable opinion by the University of Aberdeen School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition's School Ethics Review Board (SERB application ID: 4492230).

All electronic data collected for the purpose of the research study will be confidentially and securely stored on computer servers maintained by the University of Aberdeen. The study team will have access to the information you have provided. The study team, along with other individuals from the University of Aberdeen may look at data collected for the study, to check that the study is being carried out correctly and to check the accuracy of the research study. To ensure access to the data for the wider research community, the anonymous dataset may be archived in an online repository (e.g., the Open Science Framework, https://osf.io/) or sent to other researchers upon request for inspection. The University of Aberdeen is the controller for this study and is responsible for looking after your information, using it properly and complying with your rights. You can find more about this at our research participant privacy notice (Research Participants | About | The University of Aberdeen) or by contacting us at the address below.

13. Who is organising and funding the study?

This study is sponsored by the University of Aberdeen who have overall responsibility for the management of the study. The study is funded by the Medical Research Council Doctoral Training Partnership (MRC DTP). The research is being carried out by a group of experienced researchers the University of Aberdeen in collaboration with colleagues at a number of UK higher education institutes.

14. Whom do I contact if I have a concern or a complaint?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the Chief Investigator (Frank You; s.you.23@abdn.ac.uk) or his supervisor (Prof Katie Gillies; k.gillies@abdn.ac.uk) who will do their best to answer your questions. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting the Research Governance Team by emailing researchgovernance@abdn.ac.uk.