

# INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS (Medical Students)

*You will be given a copy of this information sheet*

## **Exploring the landscape of clinical placements: how do medical students experience and demonstrate skills development in wound closure? A phenomenographic study.**

We would like to invite you to participate in this research project. You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way.

Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

1. The aim of this research is to gain an understanding of how different students experience the same phenomenon (which is how you navigate your clinical placement environment to achieve your Directly Observed Procedure in Wound Care). The study also aims to understand how clinical faculty perceive the same environment and how they approach and support transformational learning in the clinical environment. This may be beneficial to improving knowledge of students' lived experience of placements and ensuring that they have appropriate support to achieve their learning outcomes.
2. I am recruiting **two** cohorts for this study:
  - a. Medical students, enrolled at Imperial College, who have completed their Directly Observed Procedure (DOP) for Procedure 21: Wound Care. There are no exclusion criteria for this group, except that they must have successfully completed this signoff. To ensure that this group is representative, I actively encourage students of minority ethnic groups, students from the LGBTQ+ community, or those who are first in their family to study medicine to participate.
  - b. Clinical faculty who have a formal affiliation with Imperial College School of Medicine. I actively encourage a range of clinical specialities and both training and consultant grade doctors to gain a wide range of experiences from faculty in relation to participating in and contributing to, clinical placement teaching. The purpose of this group is to provide validation data for analysis of the student cohort data. Exclusion criteria for this group includes:
    - i. Those who do not hold any formal affiliation either with one of the departments or the central Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London.
    - ii. Non-clinical academics or teaching fellows who are not involved in teaching medical students in a clinical capacity or speciality.
3. If you agree to participate and you are a **medical student** then you will participate in a semi-structured interview, in which you will be asked about how you managed your placement activities to achieve your DOP. This activity will be expected to take 1 hour and will take place either at Charing Cross or South Kensington in a private room.
  - a. The interview might include questions on how you planned your time, which members of the placement team you interacted with, what practice you had (or wanted), how many patients you saw and what resources you

used to get to the point where you were able to demonstrate your skills in wound closure. You will also be asked about the challenges you faced and how you managed to resolve them. Every student interaction is different and there are no right or wrong answers. The nature of a semi-structured interview means that some questions are prepared beforehand, but the methods chosen for this study means that the discussion is guided by your own experience.

- b. The semi-structured interview will be recorded (audio only) to aid with transcription and data analysis and will be stored by an identifier code rather than your name. You will be asked for your permission for me to record the interview.
  - c. The audio file will be stored on a secure drive, in accordance with Imperial College requirements for data storage. Once all the participant data is collected, the data analysis will combine the information obtained from all participants. This will be pseudo-anonymised and your identity will not be revealed to anyone else during this study.
4. The risks of participating in this study may include the following:
  - a. The time taken to participate will be 1 hour.
  - b. If you reveal information which relates to inappropriate behaviour which you witnessed while you were on placement, or you had a distressing experience, then you will be advised on how best to deal with this information. This may include signposting to the [Schools Raising Concerns Process](#) or the [Report & Support pathway](#). In this case, you will also be offered support via the FEO Welfare team.
5. As a participant, the following information will be held about you:
  - a. Name and year of study: following your interview an identifier will then be used for b and c (below). Your name and identifier will be held in a separate file which will be password controlled. Only the Principal Investigator will have access to this file.
  - b. Placement site and dates of your placement.
  - c. Audio transcript of your semi-structured interview. This file will be deleted once transcription is completed.
6. The benefits of this study will be the opportunity to participate in research which aims to understand the detailed experiences of medical students on clinical placement and the challenges they may face whilst developing and demonstrating competence in a clinical skill. You will have the opportunity to explore and reflect, in detail, on your own journey which may aid in your future placements and/or practice. In addition, the data may then identify enhancements or additional support for students to overcome issues which aim to improve the student experience. You will be gifted with a £10 Amazon voucher after the interview as a token of appreciation for taking the time to participate in the interview. This research is part of the Imperial College Masters in Education in University Learning & Teaching and the data may also be used by the Medical School to inform and update faculty on issues relating to clinical placement activity. Additionally, the project may be published in the research literature subject to review and approval. You will be offered a copy of the dissertation along with any other publications.

### **What to do if you wish to withdraw from the study**

It is your choice whether to take part. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw from the study at any time and without giving a reason.

**If you wish to withdraw, please do so by emailing the Principal Investigator, Trish Brown at [trisha.brown@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:trisha.brown@imperial.ac.uk)**

Participation is anonymous and you are free to withdraw at any time up to your interview and you do not have to give a reason for doing so.

Once you have completed your interview, you may still withdraw from the study within two weeks of your interview; again, you do not need to give a reason for doing so. After this time, the data will have been anonymised and collated for analysis. Once this stage is completed it will be difficult to remove your data and withdrawal after this stage will not be possible.

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact the researcher using the following contact details: Trish Brown ([trisha.brown@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:trisha.brown@imperial.ac.uk)).

**Thank you for taking the time to read and consider this information**