

Exploring Clinicians' Experiences of Delivering Vestibular Care Across Healthcare Settings in the UK

Participant Information Sheet

Invitation

I would like to invite you to take part in a study forming part of an MSc dissertation project.

Before you decide if you would like to participate, take time to read the following information carefully and, if you wish, discuss it with others such as your family, friends or colleagues.

Please ask the study team, whose contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet, if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information before you make your decision.

What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to explore the experiences of clinicians who are involved in the delivery of vestibular care services across different healthcare settings. The study aims to gain insight into clinicians' perspectives on their roles, delivery of care, clinical practices, and any potential challenges and facilitators associated with providing vestibular care in a range of service contexts, including both NHS and/or private.

The aim of this specific study is to explore clinicians' experiences of delivering vestibular care across different healthcare settings. This includes understanding how service delivery models, training, and organisational factors influence practice.

Why have I been invited?

You are being invited to take part in this study because you are a healthcare professional involved in the assessment or management of vestibular conditions.

To take part, you must:

- Be a registered healthcare professional (e.g. audiologist, physiotherapist, ENT clinician)
- Be currently involved in vestibular care
- Have at least one year of experience in vestibular practice
- Be currently practising in the United Kingdom
- Be able to participate in an interview conducted in English

You will not be eligible if:

- You are a student or trainee without independent clinical responsibility
- You are not directly involved in vestibular care
- You are not currently practising in the UK

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part, you will be invited to participate in a one-to-one online interview using Microsoft Teams

The interview will focus on your experiences of delivering vestibular care, including:

- How your service is structured and delivered
- Your role within the service
- Training and preparedness
- Your confidence in managing vestibular conditions
- Organizational and system factors that influence your practice

The purpose of the interview is to gain an in-depth understanding of how clinicians experience vestibular care in different contexts.

The interview will take approximately 45–60 minutes.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is entirely voluntary.

If you decide to take part, you will be asked to provide informed consent. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason. You may withdraw up to two weeks after your interview, after which your data may have been anonymised and included in analysis. You are also free not to answer any question during the interview.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes. A code will be attached to all the data you provide to maintain anonymity. Analysis of your data will be undertaken using coded data.

If we need to collect personal data (such as a name and contact details) we will only use this for the purposes outlined in this participant information sheet – e.g., to contact you to arrange the interview.

The data we collect will be stored electronically on a secure encrypted mobile device, password protected computer server or secure cloud storage device.

To ensure the quality of the research, Aston University may need to access your anonymised data to

check that the data has been recorded accurately, e.g., for the purposes of audit. If this is required, your personal data will be treated as confidential by the individuals accessing your data.

How will the conversation during the interview be recorded and the information I provide managed?

With your permission we will audio record the interview and take notes.

The recording will be typed into a document (transcribed) by the researcher. This process will involve removing any information which could be used to identify individuals e.g. names, locations etc.

Audio recordings will be destroyed as soon as the transcripts have been checked for accuracy.

We will ensure that anything you have told us that is included in the reporting of the study will be anonymous.

You of course are free not to answer any questions that are asked without giving a reason.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There are no direct benefits to you. However, the study will contribute to a better understanding of clinician experiences in vestibular care.

What are the possible risks and burdens of taking part?

Given the topic of discussion, the fact that the processed data collected from you will be anonymous, and the original recordings will be destroyed once transcribed, we feel there is minimal risk to you in participating.

In terms of burden, the interview will require approximately 45 to 60 minutes of your time.

What will happen to the results of the study?

The results of this study will be published in the MSc dissertation report of the researcher, wherein your identity will remain confidential.

The results of this study may be published in scientific journals and/or presented at conferences. If the results of the study are published, your identity will remain confidential.

Expenses and payments

There are no expenses or payments being provided for participation.

Who is funding the research?

The study is not funded.

Who is organising this study and acting as data controller for the study?

Aston University is organising this study and acting as data controller for the study. Research data will be used only for the purposes of the study or related uses identified in this Information Sheet or Appendix A.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study was given a favourable ethical opinion under delegated authority of the Health and Life Science Research Ethics Committee.

What if I have a concern about my participation in the study?

If you have any concerns about your participation in this study, please speak to the researcher and they will do their best to answer your questions. Contact details can be found at the end of this information sheet.

If the researcher is unable to address your concerns or you wish to make a complaint about how the study is being conducted you should contact the Aston University Research Integrity Office at research_governance@aston.ac.uk or telephone 0121 204 3000.

Research Team Details

Researcher: Mahdiyyah Banoo, 240368401@aston.ac.uk/ 07584730577

Research Supervisor: Saira Hussain, s.hussain14@aston.ac.uk

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Thank you for taking time to read this information sheet. If you have any questions regarding the study, please don't hesitate to ask one of the research team.

Appendix A: Transparency Statement

Aston University takes its obligations under data and privacy law seriously and complies with the Data Protection Act 2018 (“DPA”) and the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 as retained in UK law by the Data Protection, Privacy and Electronic Communications (Amendments etc) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (“the UK GDPR”).

Aston University is the sponsor for this study based in the United Kingdom. We will be using information from you to undertake this study. Aston University will process your personal data to register you as a participant and to manage your participation in the study. It will process your personal data on the grounds that it is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest (GDPR Article 6(1)(e)). Aston University may process special categories of data about you which includes details about your health. Aston University will process this data on the grounds that it is necessary for statistical or research purposes (GDPR Article 9(2)(j)). Aston University will keep identifiable information about you for 6 years after the study has finished.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw from the study, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personally identifiable information possible.

You can find out more about how we use your information at <https://www.aston.ac.uk/about/statutes-ordinances-regulations/publication-scheme/policies-regulations/data-protection> or by contacting our Data Protection Officer at dp_officer@aston.ac.uk.

If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter. If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful you can complain to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO).