

We are looking for parents of young children to help shape the future of research into family health and common childhood infections.

Infectious diseases are particularly common in the young children and older people. The Centre for Academic Primary Care (CAPC) infection team at the University of Bristol is working on research projects to improve how coughs, colds, chest and other common infections are managed, and help the NHS ensure that children who need it receive appropriate treatment. We also want to give better information and skills to parents, supported by good science, to help them manage these infections with confidence.

We are working on a range of projects exploring the best ways to treat common infections including coughs and colds, ear infections, urinary tract infections, as well as improving the information GPs and nurses give parents of children with coughs, colds and ear infections. We are also developing improved decision-making tools for clinicians, so they can give you the best advice. For example, it can take up to 15 days for 90 per cent of children with a common cold to recover (double this for chest infections), which can seem a very long time to a worried parent. We hope that this research will help you to look after yourselves and your children with more confidence when they are ill, reduce the number of times a parent needs to consult a GP or nurse when their child has a common infection and reduce the amount of antibiotics prescribed.

Primary Care is healthcare in the community - everything from GPs to Pharmacists, Optometrists to Dentists. The infection team is part of the Centre for Academic Primary Care (CAPC) which aims to gather evidence to help decide what will make primary care better for everyone. Since our goal is improving care for everyone, it's best that everyone is involved.

You can get involved in our research in a number of ways:

- tell us what is important to you as parents
- help us to make project documentation parent and child-friendly
- join a focus group with other parents
- help prioritise research that is important and relevant
- join a research management or advisory group
- help interpret the results of the research
- help make sure the research is reported in understandable ways
- help make sure good research is heard about.

Who: People with an interest in family health, common infections, healthcare research, public involvement in research. Experience of a similar role is not needed, and any necessary training will be given.

Where: Meetings are held either at CAPC (local travel is reimbursed) or somewhere which is convenient for you.

Payment: CAPC PPI&E contributors are paid £15-25 per hour depending on the tasks required, plus £15 for pre-meeting preparation or paperwork between meetings.

More info: Please contact the CAPC PPI&E coordinators, Victoria Wilson and Julie Clayton

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We look forward to hearing from you!