

EXECUTIVE RESEARCH SUMMARY

“THE ORGANISATIONAL PRACTICES OF KNOWLEDGE MOBILISATION AT TOP MANAGER LEVEL IN THE NHS” (KMobilis)

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

We are a research team from the University of Warwick conducting a study regarding the use of evidence and knowledge in daily decision-making by executive managers in NHS trusts.

Ongoing challenges concerning ‘evidence-based’ decision-making have meant that improving the ways in which healthcare organisations exploit available evidence continues to be important. Though notable work has been done to understand knowledge mobilisation in the wider healthcare context, we have relatively less insight into the practices of knowledge sourcing and use by a critical group of healthcare practitioners: top NHS managers. The study will chart in detail the organisational processes through which knowledge and evidence enter the routine work of these managers. By doing this, we hope our findings can inform the practice of executive ‘evidence-based’ decision-making in the future.

Data will be collected through interviews and observations at six Trusts in total. At each Trust, we will undertake interviews with executive managers, as well as with other staff we identify as relevant to understanding everyday executive knowledge mobilisation and use. We will also observe for an extended period of time (about two months) the process of daily knowledge use by shadowing individual executive managers, attending related meetings, and reviewing pertinent documentation.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I TAKE PART?

Your participation will entail you being observed during your working days, including observation of meetings with colleagues, conversations, office work, and any other activities normally undertaken. To minimize any disruptions, we would work to agree a way of collaborating together that suits your needs and addresses any concerns. We would also conduct an interview to gather your thoughts on the topic and better understand your working life.

WILL MY TAKING PART IN THE STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

The study does not imply any element of judgment, and all information obtained or observed will be kept in strictest confidence. At the core of our approach lies very careful handling of the information you provide, including safe storage and controlled access to materials. Both you and your organization would be anonymised in all reports and the information will be used solely for academic purposes, namely publication in distinguished journals. All the researchers are university employees and subscribe to a strict professional code.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

The research findings will be combined in a final report which we hope will provide a better understanding of the knowledge mobilisation process by executive managers. We will circulate the report confidentially to all participants, and will also organize special one-on-one feedback sessions to inform you of our relevant findings. Another highly beneficial outcome is a personal coaching session envisioned as a personal development opportunity. A high-profile conference with other NHS executives, policy makers and experts will also be organized.

WHO IS ORGANISING THE RESEARCH?

The research will run for two years and will be conducted by a multidisciplinary team from the Warwick Business School and Warwick Medical School. Funds are provided by the National Institute for Health Research, the primary UK research funding body for healthcare research, through its SDO (Service Delivery Organisation) programme.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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