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## **Participants Information Sheet (PIS): Understanding the variability in the adoption of rapid point-of-care test for acute childhood infections in European settings**

### **Introduction**

We would like to invite you to take part in this research study. Please take time to read the following information that explains what the study entails. Ask us if anything is not clear.

### **What is the problem?**

Febrile illness is common among children. However, it is difficult to distinguish between self-limiting viral illnesses and severe bacterial infections – the latter of which can result in significant morbidity and mortality. Because of this diagnostic uncertainty, antibiotics are often overprescribed in children, which may contribute to antimicrobial resistance. According to the WHO one of the key recommendations for antibiotic prescription optimization is the development and utilization of rapid point-of-care tests (POCTs) in clinical practice.

### **What is the purpose of research?**

The aim of this study is to understand why the use of rapid POCTs in children with acute infections varies across European countries. This study is undertaken by a PhD student from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), a higher education institution specialising in global and public health research.

### **Why have I been chosen?**

We are recruiting doctors and nurses with different levels of expertise in the provision of medical care to febrile children in three European countries.

### **What will happen if I take part?**

The study will include a one-on-one interview to understand your opinions and attitudes relating to the use or potential use of POCTs in febrile infants in your daily medical practice. We will discuss about past experiences of treating febrile children. Following consent, we will audio-record and transcribe these sessions. The transcription will be analysed and an aggregated report of the analysis of all the interviews I am conducting will be summarised in a report. Your name will not be associated with any comments you make, and all personal identifying information will be kept confidential.

### **What are the advantages of joining the study?**

Your participation will help better understanding how healthcare providers perceive the use of POCTs in their routine practice and inform the implementation of existing and future POCTs for the management of febrile children.

### **What are the disadvantages of joining the study?**

This study involves minimal risks. Participants may feel inconvenienced by the time required. The entire interview process will require approximately 45 minutes.

Please note that this study is not an evaluation of your clinical acumen or patient management skills.

### **How long will you keep my information for and will it be kept confidential?**

All information collected in this study will anonymized and kept confidential.

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LSHTM is the sponsor for this study. The PhD student will be using information from you in order to undertake this study and LSHTM will act as the data controller for this study. This means that the PhD student, his supervisors, and LSHTM are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. Individuals from LSHTM other than the PhD student and supervisors (i.e. individuals from LSHTM Research Operations Office and Research Governance and integrity Office), as well as regulatory organisations may look at your research records to audit the data collection process and check the accuracy of the research study. LSHTM will keep identifiable information about you for 10 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.

**What will happen if I wish to withdraw from the study?**

You can withdraw from the study at any time without providing a reason.

**What will happen to the results of the research study?**

Results may be published in peer reviewed medical journals. Some of your own words may be used when writing up the findings of this research, if you consent. The use of your words and all the data would be completely anonymous (without your name). The anonymous data may be used for future research on the topic of POCTs, and may be shared with other researchers as well.

**Research team contact information:**

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**Thank you for reading this information sheet. Please let us know if you have any questions.**

**A copy of this document has been provided to the participant**