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Dear Mr Sample

Information for GPs about a national medical research project

We are writing to inform you about the UK Biobank prospective study of the causes of cancer, heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, dementia, joint problems and many other serious diseases. This major research project will involve 500,000 people aged 40-69 from all around the UK, including some who may be registered with your practice. UK Biobank has been set up by the Department of Health, Medical Research Council and Scottish Executive, and by the Wellcome Trust. It is also supported by the Welsh Assembly Government, by health research charities (such as the British Heart Foundation and Cancer Research UK) and by the National Health Service and the Royal College of General Practitioners.

People to invite into UK Biobank are identified from NHS records. The only information provided to us, in confidence, is name, address, sex, date of birth and NHS/CHI number (but no medical information). These details are processed centrally to generate an invitation letter, which is sent with the Information Leaflet to potential participants (in accordance with the Data Protection Act, and with Multicentre Research Ethics Committee approval and Patient Information Advisory Group support under Section 60 of the Health and Social Care Act).

Taking part involves people attending a local UK Biobank assessment centre for about 90 minutes to be told more about the project. If they give their consent to participate then they are asked questions about their health and lifestyle; have some standard measurements (e.g. blood pressure, body fat estimation, heel ultrasound, spirometry); provide small samples of blood and urine; and receive the key results from their examination (but no blood or urine tests). During subsequent years, with participants' explicit consent, UK Biobank aims to follow their health through medical and other health-related records.

The Information Leaflet is enclosed, and further details can be obtained by calling free of charge on 0800-0-276-276 (Mon-Sat; 8.00am to 7.00pm) or at www.ukbiobank.ac.uk. We very much hope that you will support UK Biobank by encouraging people registered at your practice to take part. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely



Rory Collins
UK Biobank Principal Investigator;
Professor of Medicine & Epidemiology,
Oxford University



Sir Alan Langlands
UK Biobank Chair;
Vice-Chancellor
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