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GP practice details

Dear GP Practice,

Re: Extension to the scope of the GENVASC Study

You may recall that your practice helped to recruit participants into the GENVASC Study from patients attending for an NHS Health Check. Thanks to your efforts and those of **146** other practices across Leicestershire and Northamptonshire we were able to recruit over **44,000** participants between 2012-2020, far beyond our expectation.

The primary objective of the GENVASC Study was to see whether adding genetic information in the form of a Polygenic Risk Score (PRS) for cardiovascular disease (CVD-PRS) would improve identification of those at high risk over and above a clinical risk score (QRISK). Thanks to your efforts, GENVASC has unequivocally shown that adding a CVD-PRS, significantly improves the identification of those at high risk of CVD, especially in younger individuals where clinical risk scores perform less well (PMID 38848106). Such findings from GENVASC provide vital evidence to inform the introduction of a CVD-PRS into the NHS to improve CVD prediction and prevention, and we should all be proud of this research.

As you know, one's genetic makeup also influences the risk of many other diseases including diabetes, respiratory diseases, cancers and dementia and PRSs can now also be constructed for these diseases. GENVASC provides a powerful cohort to similarly study the clinical utility of PRSs for other diseases. **I am pleased to inform you that we have received permission from the Confidential Advisory Group (CAG) and the Research Ethics Committee (REC) to extend the scope of the GENVASC Study to study other diseases.** This will substantially increase the value of the research from the GENVASC Study for patient benefit.

This letter is to inform you of this approval and to seek your input on two fronts:

1. First, to **obtain your approval** (see attached response form) to allow our data processor (Arden & Gem) to periodically extract information on additional health outcomes on GENVASC participants from your GP records. Please note that this additional information will be securely handled in the same way as we currently do for CVD outcomes in GENVASC, and researchers are only able to see and analyse pseudonymised data.
2. Second, to **display the enclosed poster** in your practice waiting area, to inform participants of the approved extension of the scope of GENVASC.

A summary of the application that was submitted to CAG and REC is also attached for your information. We look forward to receiving your attached approval. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions. Once more, our grateful thanks for your contribution to the GENVASC Study.

With best wishes,

Professor N J Samani

To

The GENVASC Study Coordinator
GENVASC Study Team
BHF Cardiovascular Research Centre
Glenfield Hospital
Groby Road
Leicester

Dear GENVASC Study Coordinator

I approve the GENVASC Study Team through their data processor, currently Arden & Gem, to extract additional information from the GP health records of participants in the GENVASC Study registered in my Practice, as approved by the Confidential Advisory Group and Ethics Committee.

GP Practice Name

Name

Position

Signature

Date

PLEASE RETURN BY EMAIL TO GENVASCStudy@le.ac.uk