

## Participant Information Sheet

Dear Sir/Madam

A research team based in the Royal Victoria Hospital and Queen's University Belfast has taken on the project of identifying the key outcome measures for hip fracture patients that should be used in future research regarding their perioperative care.

This process is called a 'Delphi Study'. The perioperative care of hip fracture patients is only one of many areas in medicine that is currently undergoing this process. The aim is that future studies will have a uniform set of outcome measures, leading to improved consistency and robustness of research in this clinical area. This core outcome set will then represent the minimum information that should be measured or collected in all clinical trials for a particular condition.

We are keen for as many groups as possible from different countries and from different professions/specialties that have experience with managing hip fracture patients or that are involved in research and policy development within this area to be represented within the study.

We are writing to invite you to take part in this Delphi Study which will require you to complete a three-stage online questionnaire in order to produce a core outcome set (COS) for the perioperative care of hip fracture patients. Occupational therapists have been chosen because they work within a multidisciplinary team that manages patients with hip fracture.

The stages involved in a Delphi Study are:

1. A systematic review of the literature, conducted by the team who have registered with Delphi, in order to identify a list of outcomes that have previously been reported in this area.
2. This list of outcomes is circulated in the questionnaire, which is referred to as Round 1 of the Delphi study. You will be asked to score each outcome in terms of importance and to add any additional outcomes that you feel are relevant.
3. In Round 2 the respondents are shown a break down of the scores according to the various stakeholder groups involved. Each respondent is then given the opportunity to re-score the outcomes.
4. In the final round of the Delphi process, you will be shown the distribution of scores for each outcome for all stakeholder groups. A final consensus meeting will be held involving representatives from the major stakeholder groups, at which the final COS will be agreed.

Yours Faithfully

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