



EFFORT 2
Exploration of
Footwear and
Foot
Orthoses in
Rheumatology
Treatment



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET - Service Users Questionnaires

Title of Project: **EFFORT 2** - An exploration of the provision of shoes, insoles and splints for people with rheumatoid arthritis

Researchers: *Dr. Margaret McArthur, Principal Investigator*
Lucy Reeve, Research Associate

You are being invited to take part in this project. It is important that you understand why this is being done and what it will involve before you decide if you want to take part. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please contact me if anything is not clear or if you need more information. Take plenty of time to decide whether you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

1. What is the purpose of the project?

EFFORT 2 is a development of a previous project (EFFORT 1) funded by the Arthritis Research Campaign (arc) to explore the experiences of people with Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) who have received special shoes, insoles or foot splints as part of their NHS treatment. The findings of that first project have been used to develop this questionnaire, to further explore the experiences that people with RA have when getting shoes, insoles, or foot splints from the NHS. We also talked to health professionals and they will be contacted separately about these findings. The findings from EFFORT 1 and 2 will ultimately contribute to a large report currently being planned. EFFORT 1 uncovered some important information. To help us to check how far these findings are true for a larger population of people with RA we now need to see what other people think about these findings so we can be confident about what we think is happening in this important area of health care delivery – hence this questionnaire.

2. Who can take part in this project?

If you have rheumatoid arthritis and been provided with special shoes, splints or insoles during the last five years you are eligible to take part in this project and we would like to hear about your experiences.

3. Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not you take part. Completion and submission of this questionnaire will be taken to indicate that you consent to your answers being used in this project.

4. What will happen to me if I take part?

You will be asked to complete a questionnaire. This questionnaire should take no more than 20 minutes to complete.

5. What will I have to do?

If you decide to take part in this project please either complete the questionnaire which has been sent to you or it is also available online through a link from a) a link

www.uea.ac.uk/foh/effort or b) is also available by simply clicking on the link at the end of this information sheet.

If you would like to have a paper copy of the questionnaire please contact the Lucy Reeve, Research Associate, contact details below, who will send out a copy of the questionnaire and a reply-paid envelope.

The questionnaire asks you to provide some basic information about yourself and then it has a selection of questions about your experiences of receiving foot health services. Detailed instructions of how to complete the questionnaire are provided on the questionnaire.

If you have any questions about the completion of the questionnaire you can contact Lucy Reeve or Maggie McArthur, for further advice. Contact details are provided below.

6. What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

The researchers do not anticipate any major disadvantages to taking part in this project. Writing and thinking about your experiences may sometimes be upsetting. Contact details for the Arthritis Care, and the National Rheumatoid Arthritis Society (NRAS) Help lines are provided at the end of the questionnaires should you need them.

7. What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You will have the chance to share your experiences of the foot health services you received. Research has shown that people appreciate the opportunity to share their experiences. In addition, you will contribute to a better understanding of the way that foot health services are delivered and so may influence future service developments.

8. Will my taking part in the project be kept confidential?

All completed questionnaires will be anonymous. Confidentiality is assured. You will not be required to provide your name or address when you complete the questionnaire online. If you would like a paper copy of the questionnaire, you will need to provide your name and contact details to the administrator working on this project, but these details will not be kept after the questionnaire has been posted to you. There will be no link between any contact details and questionnaire responses. When you return the completed questionnaire, you will not have to provide your name and contact details.

Only the Principal Investigator and the Research Associate will have access to the information that is provided from the questionnaires. All information will be kept in locked filing cabinets and on password protected computers. On completion of the project the data will be stored in a dedicated research archive for five years after the completion of the project.

9. What will happen to the results of the research project?

The results of the project will be written up by the researcher into a report. The report will be made available to a variety of interested parties. These could include people responsible for local and national health services, health professionals and other researchers. It may also be published in professional journals and presented at seminars or conferences.

The findings will also be made available to the funding body Arthritis Research Campaign, to inform a planned larger report on rheumatology foot health services. This report will be made available to a number of key NHS and Government stakeholders.

10. Who is organising and funding the research?

The project is being organised by Dr Margaret McArthur, the Principal Investigator. She works in the School of Allied Health Professions, University of East Anglia. The research is funded by the Arthritis Research Campaign (arc).

11. Who has reviewed the project?

This study has been reviewed by an arc steering group. It has received approval from the Cambridge 4 Research Ethics Committee, reference number 09/HO305/98.

12. What if any issues arise during my involvement in the project that cause me concern?

If, for any reason, you wish to make a complaint regarding any aspect of your involvement please alert the research associate to the issue. You may also contact the project's Principle Investigator, contact details below.

You are under no obligation to agree to participate in this research and if you do agree you can still withdraw at any time. Thank you for reading this information sheet, if you have any further questions please contact:

Lucy Reeve EFFORT 2 Research Associate School of Allied Health Professions University of East Anglia Norwich Norfolk NR4 7TJ 01603 593094 L.Reeve@uea.ac.uk	Dr Maggie McArthur Principle Investigator School of Allied Health Professions University of East Anglia Norwich Norfolk NR4 7TJ 01603 593299 m.mcarthur@uea.ac.uk
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There is an answering machine so if you wish to leave your number we will call you back.

You can get independent information or advice about your rights as a research participant or about being involved in this particular research study from: Dr Rosie Mason, School of Allied Health Professions, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NR4 7TJ, 01603 592934, r.mason@uea.ac.uk

The NRAS helpline is free, confidential service, which is open to anyone affected by RA. It provides emotional and practical support, and information.

By letter: Unit B4 Westacott Business Centre, Westacott Way, Littlewick Green, Maidenhead, SL6 3RT
Freephone: 0800 298 7650 Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 4.30pm
Support Network: for a volunteer to call - 0845 458 3969 (local rate)
By email: enquiries@rheumatoid.org.uk

The Arthritis Care helpline is a free, confidential service, which is open to anyone affected by arthritis. It provides emotional and practical support, and information.

By letter: Arthritis Care, 18 Stephenson Way, London, NW1 2HD.
By Phone: 0808 800 4050: (10am-4pm). Free from UK landlines and mobiles using; o2/ Vodafone/ TMobile/ 3 and Orange services.
By email: <http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk/PublicationsandResources/Someoneetotalkto/Helpline/Emailthehelpline>
By forum: <http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk/php/phpBB2/>

TO OPEN THE QUESTIONNAIRE PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#)