



September 2019

Dear Colleague,

**Development and implementation of a core measurement set for reconstructive breast surgery**

We are writing to invite you to participate in a study run by the University of Bristol that aims to develop of core measurement set (CMS) for reconstructive breast surgery.

Outcome reporting in breast reconstruction is inconsistent so results from individual studies and across different procedures cannot be compared. This limits the value of current research for patients and professionals.

To address this problem, we have recently developed a core outcome set (COS) – a minimum set of outcomes selected by patients and health professionals that should be measured as a minimum in all research and audit studies of reconstructive breast surgery which has been published in the British Journal of Surgery. The COS included 11 key outcomes; implant and flap complications; major complications; unplanned surgery; donor-site morbidity; emotional and physical well-being; quality of life; normality, self-esteem and patients' cosmetic satisfaction.

While the COS is an important step in determining **what** we should measure in reconstructive breast surgery, we now need to agree **how** to define and measure these outcomes and **when** they should be measured. This is called a **core measurement set**.

We would like you to help us develop the core measurement set for reconstructive breast surgery.

Participation will involve completing two questionnaires, approximately 6 weeks apart. Each questionnaire will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. It is important that you are able to complete both questionnaires so we are able to reach agreement on the final core measurement set. We aim to recruit approximately 150 professionals to ensure a broad representation of views.

Taking part is voluntary. Anonymised data will be made available on request to other researchers at the end of the study.

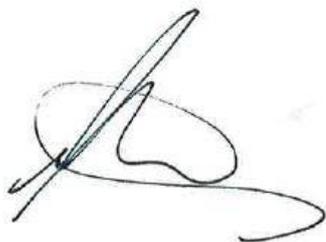
This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the University of Bristol Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee (reference: 60221). The project forms part of the wider Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials (COMET) Initiative ([www.comet-initiative.org](http://www.comet-initiative.org)) and is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

If you would like to take part, please click on the link. If you have any questions or queries about the study or would like to read a full copy of the study protocol, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Shelley Potter via e-mail ([shelley.potter@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:shelley.potter@bristol.ac.uk)) or telephone (0117 9287218)

We hope that you will chose to participate in this important and innovative research study. If you have any colleagues that you feel may be interested in taking part, please feel free to make them aware of the study and contact us.

Many thanks for your help in advance.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Potter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shelley Potter

Consultant Senior Lecturer in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery  
On behalf of the CMS Steering Group