



# Department of Primary Care Health Sciences

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## **Diagnosis of serious infection in elderly patients and the decision to admit: a qualitative interview study with UK GPs**

Diagnosis of serious infection in the growing elderly primary care population is important, because it carries high mortality, but challenging, because the signs, symptoms and tests which we use in younger patients can be less accurate in the elderly.

I am a GP trainee and clinical researcher based at the University of Oxford. I am involved in a project that aims to find out how GPs diagnose serious infection in the elderly in the community and how they decide whether a patient needs admission. In order to get a useful answer to this question it is important that we explore the views and experiences of currently practising GPs working in a variety of different settings.

I am writing to ask whether you would be willing to take part in this study, which will involve a recorded telephone or face to face interview lasting 30 - 45 minutes. I realise how pressured your time is and I would therefore be very happy to conduct the interview to fit around your schedule, including early morning, evenings or weekends. We can offer a certificate of participation in research that may be useful for your appraisal or revalidation purposes and will reimburse you £60 for your time. The attached information sheet gives further details about what participation in the study will involve.

I would be grateful if you could contact me at the email address below if you are willing to participate in an interview. I will then contact you by e-mail, or by telephone if you prefer, to arrange a convenient time. Please do not hesitate to contact me using the details below if you have any questions.

Thank you for considering participation in this study.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Abigail Moore'.

Dr Abigail Moore  
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