

Research Information for GP Practices

A Realist Evaluation of Paramedics Working in General Practice:
Work Package 2: An assessment of clinical and cost effectiveness (READY Paramedics)

NHR Portfolio ID	50839
IRAS ID	279490
Type of study	Mixed methods realist evaluation
Study Design and Background	<p>Background</p> <p>General Practitioner (GP) services are under increasing pressure with growing demand, exacerbated by a shortfall in GPs. Paramedics are increasingly being used alongside GPs to address these shortages. Paramedics may manage minor illness, undertake home visits and provide same day 'urgent' consultations. However, there is significant variation in the types of condition and patients that paramedics are asked to see. While there are benefits to paramedics working in general practice, there are also potential drawbacks. In addition, there is a lack of evidence about the safety, clinical and cost effectiveness of paramedics working in general practice (PGP), and the different service models that exist. The aim of this study is to assess the clinical and cost effectiveness of paramedics working in general practice.</p> <p>Study design</p> <p>In the first part of the study, work package 1 (WP1), we carried out a review of the information describing different models or theories about how paramedics work in general practice. In work package 2 (WP2) we are now carrying out 'case studies' in 24 general practices (12 core and 12 detailed case study sites) to determine how the models might work now and in the future, for whom, and in what circumstances.</p> <p>At all 24 case study sites, we will collect 'core data':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective patient questionnaires will be completed immediately after their initial health care appointment and again 30 days later. <p>At up to 12 of the 24 sites, we will collect additional 'detailed data':</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrospective patient data will be extracted directly from the GP EHR for patients eligible for PGP over a period of one year • Patient and general practice staff participant qualitative interviews will be conducted.
Study aim and objectives	<p>To evaluate the role of paramedics in general practice (PGP) and provide evidence about different service delivery models to determine their ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve good clinical outcomes for patients • Provide safe patient care • Improve patient experience • Relieve GP workload pressure • Influence the workload of other general practice staff • Make efficient use of healthcare resources
Primary care organisation target	N/A
Duration of study recruitment	The study will run between 01/02/22 to 31/12/22
Eligibility criteria	<p>Inclusion:</p> <p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adults, aged 16 years and over, with capacity to give informed consent (with carer support if required) • Understanding of English language sufficient to take part in an interview or complete a standardised questionnaire with an interpreter or carer if required. Translated versions of questionnaires will be available if required. • Registered with a general practice in England. <p>Staff participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All adults aged 18 years and over. • Staff member within a general practice in England <p>Exclusion:</p> <p>Participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 16 years of age • Does not have with capacity to give informed consent • Understanding of the English language is insufficient to take part in an interview or complete a standardised questionnaire even with an interpreter/translated version. • Not registered with a general practice in England. <p>Staff participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less than 18 years of age. • Not a general practice member of staff in England

Study activities	
Primary care organisation activities (including follow up)	<p>Core data (all 24 sites): Prospective data collection: Practices will be asked to identify eligible patients at their initial appointment and provide the study pack to participants interested in taking part. The study pack will be completed by the participants at home and returned directly to the research team. If the initial consultation is remote, practice staff will be asked to introduce the study when booking the consultation and to post or email the initial study pack to interested participants. The research team will send out the second questionnaire pack to participants 30 days after their initial appointment.</p> <p>Detailed data (up to 12 of the 24 sites): Retrospective data extraction: Data extraction from EMIS Web systems or System One, will be carried out using pre-designed and tested bespoke data queries. Data will be at individual patient level, on specific events (e.g., patient characteristics, type of consultation, clinician seen, clinical codes for presentation) and outcomes (e.g., length of consultation, medications, referrals, further contacts). Data will be de-identified at source and transferred to the central research team using secure file transfer.</p> <p>General practices can use their own staff to run the query or can request a member of the research team to carry out this task. Only de-identified data will be accessed by members of the research team</p> <p>Patient interviews: Provide information (study publicity materials provided) to patients about the opportunity to participate in a qualitative interview. Arrangements for interviews will be made directly with the research team.</p> <p>Staff interviews: Detailed information about the interviews will be provided for interested staff. Arrangements for the interviews will be made directly between individual staff members and the research team.</p>
Patient involvement	<p>Core data (all 24 sites): Prospective data collection: Patients will be invited to take part through being informed about the study at their initial healthcare appointment, and if interested, given the initial study pack.</p>

	<p>Patient involvement will entail completing the first set of study questionnaires straight after their initial consultation and the second set 30 days after the initial consultation and returning them directly to the research team.</p> <p>Detailed data (up to 12 of the 24 sites): <i>Patient interviews:</i> Patients will be invited to take part through being informed about the study at their initial healthcare appointment. If interested, they will be given the initial study pack and/or asked to contact the research team for information about participating in a short (30 minute) study interview.</p> <p>There will be no additional visits to the general practice for patients.</p> <p>Travel expenses will be reimbursed if required for participants to attend study interviews.</p>
What are the likely benefits to the patient/primary care organisation?	<p>There are no direct benefits to participating in the study. But the information gained will contribute to knowledge about the cost and clinical effectiveness of paramedics working in general practice and may influence how paramedics are employed in general practice in the future.</p>
Research team contact details	<p>Name: READY Paramedics Team Email: ReadyParamedics@uwe.ac.uk Telephone: 0117 328 1527</p>