

Statement of justification for publishing raw data
15 February 2018

The appeal of the Functional Fitness MOT to older adults and health professionals in an outpatient setting: a mixed-method feasibility study

The original dataset for this study contains no direct identifiers such as name, initials, addresses, health record identifiers and so on. It does however contain several indirect identifiers which in combination might represent a risk of breach of participant anonymity. These variables are:

- Screening form ID number
- Participant ID number
- Sex
- Age
- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 rank
- Clinic attended
- Distance from participant's home to clinic attended
- Presence/absence of any one of the following: cognitive impairment, learning disability, or severe mental illness.
- Free text responses from question 6 of the 'Post-Intervention Questionnaire'.

To protect participants' anonymity the following measures have been taken in the publicly available version of the dataset called 'The appeal of the Functional Fitness MOT – Raw data 15 02 2018.xls' (last modified 15 February 2018, 14:59:11 hours).

The following variables have been removed:

- Screening form ID number
- Participant ID number
- Free text responses from question 6 of the 'Post-Intervention Questionnaire'.

The coding keys for the following variables have been withheld:

- Sex
- Clinic attended

All mentions of the names of the participating clinics have also been removed from the manuscript submitted for publication.

The following variables have been converted into banded data and the original data removed:

- Age (six bands)
- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2012 rank (five bands)
- Distance from participant's home to the clinic attended (six bands).

All screening data relating to patients who did not subsequently consent to participate in the study have been removed.

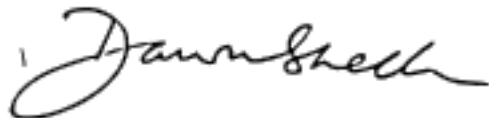
These measures are in accord with the guidance provided by NHS National Services Scotland's Statistical Disclosure Protocol Version 3.0:

http://www.isdscotland.org/About-ISD/confidentiality/disclosure_protocol_v3.pdf

After taking these measures the investigators firmly believe that the risk of breach of participants' anonymity by publishing this dataset is negligible.

This assessment of the risk has been evaluated as justified by an independent researcher with no involvement in this study and who indeed was not aware of the study prior to being asked to provide an independent assessment of the risk. The independent researcher is Ms. Pamela Linksted (Pamela.linksted@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk), eResearch Lead, Research & Development Office, NHS Lothian who has extensive experience in the secure management of confidential data for research purposes within Lothian's NHS Research Scotland Safe Haven:
<https://www.nhsresearchscotland.org.uk/research-in-scotland/data/safe-havens>

The removal of screening data relating to patients who did not subsequently consent to participate in the study is justifiable on ethical grounds but clearly limits the usefulness of the publicly-available version in terms of confirming recruitment rate, reasons for exclusion, and so on for this feasibility study. Should any individual researchers who view the publicly-available dataset wish to collaborate with the study investigators then arrangements will be considered for allowing restricted access to all of the screening data on request. This will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the investigators depending on the purpose of the request. Any such requests should be sent to the Chief Investigator in the first instance.



Professor Dawn A. Skelton
Chief Investigator

Professor of Ageing and Health,
School of Health and Life Sciences,
Institute for Applied Health Research,
Centre for Living,
Glasgow Caledonian University
A101g Govan Mbeki Building,
Cowcaddens Road,
Glasgow G4 0BA
United Kingdom
dawn.skelton@gcu.ac.uk

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