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PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Bystander Enablement Research Programme: sBATT Validation Study

Invitation

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to participate, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

What is the purpose of the study?

Road traffic collisions are a leading cause of death and serious injury worldwide. In many situations, the first people to help an injured person are bystanders, police officers, or firefighters rather than paramedics or doctors. We have developed a simple assessment tool called the simplified Bleeding Audit Triage Trauma (sBATT) score that could help these first responders quickly identify seriously injured casualties and communicate effectively with emergency services.

This study aims to find out how accurately different groups of people can use the components of this assessment tool. We want to understand whether lay people, police officers, firefighters, and clinicians can reliably assess things like consciousness level, pulse, and heart rate without specialised equipment. We also want to test different ways of supporting people to prepare emergency medication.

Why have I been invited?

You have been invited because you fall into one of our four participant groups:

- Lay bystanders (members of the public without professional emergency response training)
- Police officers who attend road traffic collisions
- Fire and rescue personnel who attend road traffic collisions
- Clinicians working in pre-hospital or emergency care

We are recruiting approximately 20 people from each group, for a total of about 80 participants.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is entirely voluntary. If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form. You are free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason, and this will not affect you in any way.

What will happen if I take part?

The study takes place over one day at an emergency services training venue. The day includes several research modules. Each module takes up to one hour, with breaks between activities. The full day typically runs from 9am to 5pm.

The modules are:

Module 1 — Consciousness Assessment (approximately 45–60 minutes): You will watch 28 short video clips showing actors portraying casualties with different levels of consciousness. After each video, you will indicate whether you think the person is fully conscious or not fully conscious.

Module 2 — Radial Pulse Detection (approximately 20–30 minutes): You will visit 10 stations where volunteers have their arm extended through a screen. You will feel for a pulse at the wrist and record whether a pulse is present or absent. The pulse may be temporarily blocked using a blood pressure cuff — this is safe and commonly done.

Module 3 — Heart Rate Assessment (approximately 20–30 minutes): You will feel the pulse on a training mannequin that has been programmed with different heart rates. You will classify whether the heart rate is slow, normal, or fast.

Module 4 — Medication Preparation (approximately 15–20 minutes): You will be asked to draw up a dose of medication from a vial using a syringe, following instructions provided. You will be randomly assigned to receive either written instructions alone, written instructions with video support, or written instructions with live telephone guidance. The medication is simulated (water) — no real drugs are involved.

Module 5 — Realistic Scenario (approximately 30–45 minutes): You will take part in a simulated road traffic collision scenario where you will assess a 'casualty' (actor or mannequin) and make a simulated 999 call to communicate your findings. During this module, you will wear a chest strap heart rate monitor. Afterwards, you will have a short interview about your experience.

Will I be video recorded?

Module 5 (the realistic scenario) will be video recorded to allow detailed analysis of assessment techniques. You will be asked for specific consent for this recording. The recordings will be stored securely and used only for research purposes. They will not be shared publicly.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

You will learn about research methods and trauma assessment techniques. Your participation will contribute to improving emergency care for road traffic collision casualties worldwide.

What are the possible risks of taking part?

For all participants:

- Mild discomfort from wearing the heart rate monitor chest strap during Module 5
- Small risk of needlestick injury during the medication preparation module — standard safety precautions will be in place and first aid is available on site

For lay volunteer participants specifically:

Some modules involve realistic simulations of road traffic collision scenarios, including actors portraying casualties in distress and vehicle entrapment settings. While no real casualties or graphic injuries are involved, these scenarios are designed to feel realistic. As part of our consent process we ask potential participants whether they have been involved in a serious road traffic collision in the past six months, or whether they have concerns about participating in realistic emergency scenarios. This is not intended to be exclusionary, but as a prompt for discussion with the research team to explore what support might be needed, if they wish to continue to be involved.

For professional participants (police, fire, clinicians):

The simulation scenarios are similar to those encountered in routine professional training. Support through your usual occupational welfare services remains available.

Support is available throughout the study day and you can stop participating at any time. All participants will receive a debrief after completing the realistic scenario module, which will include signposting to support services including the Samaritans (116 123) and your GP.

What data will be collected?

Information about the participant group is collected as part of the consent form to help ensure a balanced range of participants in the study. No other personal or demographic data are collected as part of the consent process itself.

If you choose to take part in this study, you will be asked to provide some basic information at the point of registration on the study day. This study collects a small amount of information that is classed

as special category data under UK GDPR, specifically sex and ethnicity. This information is collected solely for research purposes, to help ensure appropriate representation and analysis across participant groups. This data will be processed only with your explicit consent and handled in accordance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018, with appropriate safeguards in place.

During the study day, data will also be collected from your responses and performance during the study modules, including task outcomes and questionnaire or interview responses where applicable.

Will my information be kept confidential?

Yes. All information collected about you will be kept strictly confidential. Your data will be identified by a unique code number rather than your name. Paper records will be stored in locked cabinets, and electronic data will be stored on password-protected, encrypted servers. Only authorised members of the research team will have access to your data. The results of this study may be published in scientific journals, but you will not be identifiable in any publication.

What will happen to my data?

Your data will be processed in accordance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Devon Air Ambulance Trust is the data controller for this study. The legal basis for processing your data is your consent. Your data will be retained for five years after the study ends, then securely destroyed.

What if something goes wrong?

If you are harmed by taking part in this research, there are no special compensation arrangements. If you are harmed due to someone's negligence, you may have grounds for legal action. The study is covered by Devon Air Ambulance Trust's liability insurance.

Who has reviewed this study?

Ethical governance for the Bystander Enablement Research Programme was considered prospectively via the Health Research Authority (HRA) Integrated Research Application System (IRAS project ID: 370939), submitted on 26 March 2026. Following review of the application and clarification of the study's participant populations and recruitment pathways, the HRA confirmed in writing on 20 April 2026 that neither REC review nor HRA Approval is required for this study.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is organised and sponsored by Devon Air Ambulance Trust through the IMPACT Centre for Post-Collision Research, Innovation and Translation.

Contact for further information

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Thank you for considering taking part in this research.