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To: Healthcare Professionals in Maternity

Request for Research Cooperation

How Maternity Care Professionals in Japan Perceive Quality of Care and Apply in their Clinical Practice: A Qualitative Study

Contents

【We invite you to take part in our study】

- Before you decide whether to take part, it is important that you understand why this study is being done and what it will involve.
- Please read this booklet carefully and decide whether you would like to participate. If you wish, you can discuss it with others.
- The decision to take part is entirely yours.
- If you are interested in this study, please get in touch with the researcher.
- Our contact details are on this page if you would like to ask us questions about the study.
- Thank you for reading this page about the study.

How to contact us

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(Google form) https://forms.gle/Pcfxsa9Bq7Z9Td63A →Accessible through the QR code

Please turn over to read the full information about this study.

1. Introduction

We are carrying out research into Quality of Care in Maternity. The details of the study a re outlined below. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

2. The title of the study

The name of study is "How Maternity Care Professionals in Japan Perceive Quality of Care and Apply in their Clinical Practice: A Qualitative Study".

3. Ethical review and approval from the head of the research institution for conducting the s tudy

This study has been approved by the Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, and Kyoto University Hospital Medical Ethics Committee, which has reviewed the suitability of the research plan and the explanation and consent forms for the research subj ects from the standpoint of ethics, science, and validity. This study is also conducted with the permission of the Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine.

4. Name of the research institution and name of the principal investigator

This study will be conducted at delivery facilities in maternity settings in Japan. Our team for this study is listed as follows:

Principal investigator:

Dr Anagnostou Despoina, Associate Professor

Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Human Health Sciences

Co-researcher:

Dr Furuta Marie, Professor

Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Human Health Sciences

Dr Otaki Chifumi, Lecturer

Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Human Health Sciences

Tanaka Nozomi, PhD student

Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine, Department of Human Health Sciences

5. Aim and Significance

This study aims to understand how maternity care professionals in Japan perceive quality of care and apply it in clinical practice.

Renfrew et al. (2014) reported that maternity care professionals have roles in optimising the normal reproduction process and early life. Their responsibilities include strengthening women's capabilities to care for themselves and their families. Prttrof et al. (2002) report ed that high-quality maternity care is defined as providing a minimum level of care to all p regnant women and their newborn babies and an advanced level of care to those who need it.

WHO defines Quality of Care as "the degree to which health care services for individuals and populations increase the likelihood of desired health outcomes". We identified in the previous study that quality of care in maternity is conceptually biased; certain areas are particularly emphasised, which may not match the actual clinical maternity practice. Furthermore, measuring the quality of care is a subject of debate.

Thus, this study addresses this issue by understanding how health professionals in maternity wards think about, feel about and apply quality care.

6. Method

With your permission, we would like to interview you about your thoughts, feelings, and practices based on your experience clinical experience in maternity units.

We plan to speak to you to learn your clinical characteristics. This will help us recruit a sample for data collection and analysis.

- The interview will be conducted once, on a one-on-one basis.
- You may choose to have the interview in person or online (Zoom).
- The interview will last approximately 60-90 minutes.
- We will organise the interview schedule individually.
- The date, time, and location of the interview will be arranged to suit your needs.
- With your permission, we would like to record the conversation to help us analyse the data later.
- The recording will be transcribed verbatim and fully anonymised.

7. Period

The study period will be from the date of approval by the head of the research institution until 31 March 2027. We kindly ask that participants be interviewed only once during the study period, after they have given their consent.

8. The reason why I am being asked to take part

You have been invited to take part in this study as a maternity care professional in Japan; obstetricians, nurses, midwives, physiotherapists, clinical psychologists, and medical social workers, working in perinatal, maternal, and child health centres, maternity wards in general hospitals, obstetric clinics, and midwifery clinics.

We also targeted individuals with a range of years of experience and various positions. Your clinical experience would be most valuable for this work.

9. Burdens by study participants and anticipated risks and benefits

Taking part in this study and being interviewed will require a time commitment of 60-90 minutes, which may result in time constraints. Additionally, depending on the interview quest

ions, you may feel psychologically stressed, and the researcher may consider discontinuing your participation in the study during the interview.

This study does not directly benefit participants. However, we hope this study will help develop new methods for evaluating the quality of care by providing a conceptual understanding of the quality of care perceived by maternity care professionals.

10. Regarding not taking part in or withdrawing consent after taking part in

You do not have to take part in this research if you do not wish to do so. If you decide to take part, you are free to withdraw from your study at any point—before, during, or after the interview—without providing a reason, except once data analysis has been completed. The recorded interviews will be destroyed if you wish. Your information will not be used in the study, and your details will be deleted from our study records.

However, please be aware that requests to withdraw from the study cannot be accepted after the data analysis has been completed, as the data will be regarded solely as the analysis results, making it very difficult to identify individuals.

11. Method of disclosure of research information

The results of this study are planned to be presented at conferences, submitted to journals, and published in the future. The identities of the study participants will not be disclosed in any reports or publications related to this study.

With your permission, your interview content may be used as quotations. If you do not want excerpts from your interview to be used as quotations in publications such as conference presentation slides or papers, you do not need to consent to that section of the participant agreement.

Publications related to the results of this study will be made freely available to the public online.

12. Protection of personal information of other study participants, and materials related to the research, to the extent that they do not interfere with the research

If you would like to know more about these study results, please contact us at the email address provided below. You can access this study's results where the personal information and intellectual property of other participants are not being compromised.

If you wish to obtain and review information about this study's results, please feel free to contact ususing the details provided at the end of the leaflet.

13. Handling of personal information

All information collected about you during the study will be kept strictly confidential. With your permission, the interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed word-for-word. Any information that could potentially identify you, for example, your name or address, will be removed so that the transcripts are fully anonymised. Consent will be taken for the use o

f anonymised extracts from the transcripts to be used in study reports and future publicatio ns.

If you are being interviewed online (using ZOOM or similar), please prepare a private ro om to prevent information leaks. The online interview room will be arranged so that only you and the researcher can access it, and communications will be encrypted to prevent informatio n leaks to outside parties.

14. Methods for storing and disposing of information

Any information, including audio recordings and transcripts, will be stored in a secure location for up to 10 years under the responsibility of the Principal Investigator and Co-re searcher. Written and audio information will then be destroyed.

15. Research funding and conflicts of interest

This work is supported by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) SPRING, Grant Number JPMJSP2110. It will also be funded by the operating grant for the principal investigator's laboratory. Any other specific companies will provide no funding.

There are no conflicts of interest in this research. The Kyoto University Clinical Resear ch Conflict of Interest Review Committee has appropriately reviewed conflicts of interest in accordance with the Kyoto University Conflict of Interest Policy and the Kyoto University Co nflict of Interest Management Regulations.

16. Response to inquiries from study participants

If you have a concern about any aspects of this study, you should ask to speak to the re searchers, who will do their best to answer your questions (see contact details at the botto m of the sheet). Any complaints about the conduct of the study will be addressed.

Researcher	Principal Investigator
Tanaka Nozomi PhD student tanaka.nozomi.24w@st.kyoto-u.ac.jp	Dr Despoina Anagnostou Associate Professor Email：anagnostou.despoina.2a@kyoto-u.ac.jp Tel：075 751 4174
Perinatal Epidemiology, Advanced Nursing Science Course, Department of Human Health Sciences, Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine You can contact us through our study website. https://qocsanka.jp/	

If you remain unhappy and wish to make a formal complaint, you can contact the conce rns team for the Research Promotion Section, General Affairs and Planning Division, Gradua te School of Medicine, Kyoto University.
(Tel) 075-753-9301 (Email) 060kensui@mail2.adm.kyoto-u.ac.jp

17. Financial burden or compensation for study participants

Research participants are not financially burdened. However, if you take part in this stu dy online, you will be asked to prepare your own PC and cover the costs of your internet con

nection. As compensation for taking part, you will receive a 2,000 yen QUO card after the interview.

18. Handling of study results (including incidental findings) related to research participants

This study aimed to understand healthcare professionals' perceptions and is not likely to obtain important knowledge, including incidental findings related to the health of the study participants.

19. Possibility of secondary use of information or provision to other research institutions

The information collected in this study may be used for future research not specified at the time of consent. Additionally, the data gathered will not be shared with other research institutions.

If a new purpose for the data is identified and it is to be used for secondary analysis or shared with other research entities, this will only occur once the new research plan has received approval from the ethical review committee. In such instances, you will be informed about the new research details, including its purpose, and will have the opportunity to refuse. Secondary use will not be permitted without this confirmation.

Thank you for reading this information sheet.