



**Title: Identifying and prioritising important research questions for the treatment of eczema – a collaborative partnership between patients, clinicians and researchers.**

Lead Investigator: Dr Kim Thomas, Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, University of Nottingham

**Eczema survey: Information sheet**

You are invited to take part in this research study that is aiming to identify and decide the most important research questions for the treatment of eczema. Before you agree to take part it is important that you understand the purpose of this study and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information and contact us if there is anything you do not understand or if you would like more information.

**Why the study is important?**

A range of treatments for eczema have been tested in an attempt to reduce the symptoms of this disease. Those that have been tried have had various levels of success.

We think it is important that more research is done into treatments for eczema, and that future research focuses on the questions that are important to people who have eczema, carers of adults/children with eczema and the health professionals (doctors and nurses) that treat eczema. We are therefore collecting questions that all these groups of people have about treatments for eczema. We will use these to identify where there is true uncertainty, that is to say where there is no existing research that already provides a reliable answer, so that future research can focus on the most important questions.

If you have eczema, are the carer of an adult or child with eczema or a health professional with an interest in the condition, you can help us by completing this survey and telling us what questions you have about eczema treatments.

**What does the study involve?**

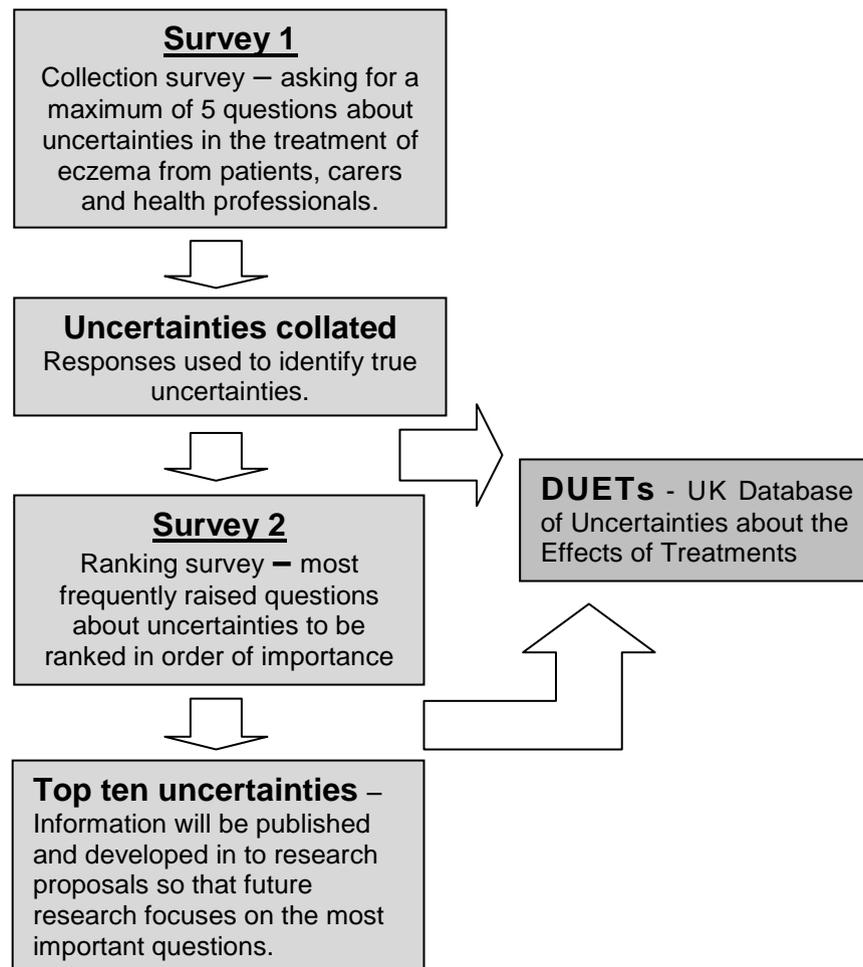
If you agree to participate in this study you will be asked to fill in two surveys, which should take about five minutes each to complete. If you chose to take part you could complete one or both of these surveys.

Survey 1 (Collection survey) - This survey asks what questions about the treatments for eczema you would like answered by research. The sorts of things we would like to know about are any questions you have, or had, about treatments for eczema, for example: prescribed medicines (e.g. tablets or creams), light therapy (e.g. UVA), other non-drug therapy (e.g. specialist eczema clothing) or complementary therapy (e.g. Chinese herbal remedies). We request that you tell us about a maximum of five questions you have about any of these treatments, these questions do not have to be in any particular order of importance.

Once the survey is complete all the responses will be collated. We will use these responses to identify where there is true question, that is to say where there is no existing research that already provides a reliable answer. The most commonly asked questions in from Survey 1, about treatments for eczema, will then be gathered into another survey. The second survey is outlined below.

Survey 2 (Ranking survey) - In the second survey we would provide you with the most frequently asked questions about eczema treatments from Survey 1. We would like to ask you to read the list of questions about eczema treatments from Survey 1 and rank the top questions from this list in the order which you think are the most important to you. It is possible that the survey 2 (ranking survey) list of questions may not contain the question(s) asked by you in the original survey.

All questions asked in survey 1, including those that do not go in to survey 2 (ranking survey), will be added to the UK Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of Treatments (DUETs available at [www.duets.nhs.uk](http://www.duets.nhs.uk))



This research study is due to be completed by December 2011. The surveys will be available between June and July 2011.

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

The research questions will be used to inform future clinical trial proposals for submission to research funding bodies. If you give us your contact details, we will send you details of the outcome of the study once it has been completed. We will also publish the results in the scientific press, the National Eczema Society's magazine 'Exchange' and on relevant websites. You will not be identified in any publication. The results will also be published on DUETs.

### **Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you are free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. Completing the survey will be considered as consenting to participate in the research and allowing the research question you supply to be published on DUETs.

### **Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?**

All personal information which is collected about you during the course of this research study will be kept according to the UK Data Protection Laws and is strictly confidential. Any information about you that leaves the research unit will have your name and anything identifiable to you removed.

### **Who is organising and funding the study?**

This study is being funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the money is being used to pay research staff salaries and other costs (e.g. travel costs). The study is being undertaken by the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology at the University of Nottingham in collaboration with the James Lind Alliance.

### **Who has reviewed the study?**

This study has been reviewed and approved by an independent NHS Ethics Committee.

### **Who can I complain to?**

In case you have a complaint about this study, you can initially approach the lead investigator, Dr Kim Thomas by telephone: 0115 8468632 or [email: kim.thomas@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:kim.thomas@nottingham.ac.uk).

### **Contact for further information**

If you would like to discuss this research study further or have any questions please contact a member of the research team at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology by telephone: 0115 8468622, [email cebd@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:email_cebd@nottingham.ac.uk) or write to;

Eczema PSP  
Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology  
University of Nottingham  
King's Meadow Campus  
Lenton Lane  
Nottingham  
N G7 2NR

### **Useful websites**

Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/dermatology/](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/dermatology/)  
National Institute for Health Research: [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)  
The James Lind Alliance: [www.lindalliance.org](http://www.lindalliance.org)  
Database of Uncertainties about the Effects of treatments: [www.duets.nhs.uk](http://www.duets.nhs.uk)  
INVOLVE: [www.invo.org.uk](http://www.invo.org.uk)