

EMERGE NEWSLETTER

RESEARCH IMPACT: The ExSEED Study

Understanding Experiences of Suicidality Care in the Emergency Department

Emergency Departments (EDs) are often a key point of contact for people experiencing suicidality, yet both patients and healthcare staff frequently report negative care experiences in this setting. Despite Scotland having higher suicide rates than the rest of the UK, no previous research has explored these experiences within Scottish EDs.

This study explored the perspectives of patients and clinical staff in a Scottish city-based ED through semi-structured interviews conducted between April and June 2025. One patient and five staff members participated, with several patients lost to follow-up despite initial consent and enhanced recruitment support. Interviews were analysed using reflexive thematic analysis.

Four key themes emerged: prioritising what matters most, coping with suicidality care, reliance on collaborative teamwork, and the ED's capacity to intervene. The findings highlight how (dis)connections within support networks, interpersonal relationships, and people's physical and mental health needs can impact people's experiences of suicidality care in the ED. They also point to wider challenges in supporting meaningful patient participation in suicide-related research - an issue that new work, including the REFRAME study, is already beginning to address (watch this space!).



STUDY
SPOTLIGHT

Attention ED teams, medics, respiratory staff, and all round superheroes! If you come across a patient with a primary spontaneous pneumothorax (PSP), you might be able to help shape the future of how we treat it. The CONCEPT study (CONservative versus Standard carE for primary spontaneous PneumoThorax) is exploring whether a conservative approach could work just as well as standard care for patients with symptomatic PSP.

Patients who join the study are screened and randomised to either conservative care or usual care, with a 30-day follow-up to see how they're getting on. Simple, practical, and designed to answer an important question about everyday clinical care.

And this is where you come in! If you spot a potential patient, we'd love your referral. Your help means patients can take part in research that could improve treatment and potentially reduce unnecessary procedures in the future.

Curious? Want the quick details? Scan the QR code to learn more about the study. Every referral makes a difference—we truly appreciate your support.



NEW AND UPCOMING

Look out for patients for the MAPS-2 study

PREVENTING PNEUMONIA AND MORTALITY IN STROKE PATIENTS WITH DYSPHAGIA



Why it matters:

- Pneumonia affects 44-69% of stroke patients with nasogastric tubes
- Associated with 2-6x higher mortality, longer hospital stays, & increased long-term disability

Trial design:

- Single-blind Randomised Controlled Trial (RCT): Metoclopramide vs saline for 14 days

Main inclusion criteria:

- Patients with dysphagia, recruited within 24 hours of stroke onset

Are you caring for a patient with an NIHSS 10 or more OR NIHSS between 6-9 with a failed swallow screen? Please let us know!



STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Mubarak is a Clinical Trials Assistant with a strong background in Life Sciences and a keen interest in the advancement of medicine through drug discovery.

He is committed to continuous professional development and is driven by a long-term goal of contributing to the growth and advancement of clinical research globally, particularly in strengthening research capacity across Africa.

Joining the EMERGE Team, he is looking forward to expand his scope of experience by exploring new therapeutic areas.



Welcome to Mubarak!



CRASH-4 is an exciting new study looking at the effect of early IM TXA on intracranial haemorrhage, disability, death, and dementia in older adults with symptomatic mild head injury.

How to get involved?

We are looking for people specifically doctors to complete their study training which allows you to assess eligibility and prescribe the TXA or a placebo.

Alternatively you can be added to the log for providing professional legal consent for participants who do not have capacity when they present to hospital so they can take part in this study.

If you want a quick crash course on what training needs to be done please contact the EMERGE team on loth.emerge2@nhs.scot.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Charlotte Murphy

3rd year student nurse

I have spent the last few weeks working with EMERGE, the entire team welcomed me with open arms and supported me every day throughout my placement.

As a third-year student nurse, I had the opportunity to actively contribute to various clinical studies hosted by EMERGE. Under the mentorship of the research nursing team, I gained practical experience in trial methodology and the regulatory frameworks governing clinical research.

This placement allowed me to refine my clinical techniques while developing the critical thinking and meticulous documentation skills essential for high-quality patient care.

I am eager to carry these professional insights forward as I transition into my registered nursing practice. I absolutely loved my time working with the EMERGE team and cannot thank them enough for all their help!

Fellows Research Shifts!

CONGRATULATIONS to Jon Schulz and David Birrell who kicked off recruitment to the next stage of RUFUS with a bang!! Between them they recruited 3 patients within the first week of re-opening!

WELCOME to Erin Bushe and Annabel Sick who have recently joined our research fellows group - two great additions to the fellows team!



GCP TRAINING HERE

RESEARCHER OF THE QUARTER



AMU BASE 6 STAFF

For all of their help taking care of patients in our research studies



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