

The **GENVASC** Study and your NHS Health Check

Short Information Sheet

Would you like to help us
with research to tackle
heart disease?

While you have your NHS health check we would like to invite you to take part in the GENVASC study. You are having a NHS health check to assess your risk of getting heart disease or other circulation problems. The check involves testing a sample of your blood and checking factors which we know have an influence on the chances of you getting cardiovascular disease, such as your age, sex, blood pressure, cholesterol level and whether you smoke or have diabetes.

All of these things are important in helping us to identify those

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who are at higher risk and allow preventative measures to be applied early. However, these tests are not perfect and some people who are identified at low or medium risk still go on to have cardiovascular problems. This is because other factors are at work, for instance cardiovascular disease seems to occur more frequently in some families than others, so genes and DNA also play a part in increasing the risk of developing heart disease.

What is the **GENVASC** Study all about?

A lot of progress has been made recently in identifying genes that affect risk of heart disease. The GENVASC study (short for Genetics and the Vascular Health Check Programme), involves thousands of people like you and aims to test whether adding genetic information to the other risk

factors tested, can help improve the prediction of who is at risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

What does it **involve**?

Taking part in the study is really simple as it's combined with your health check. All you need to do is sign a consent form allowing us to use some of your medical information confidentially in research and provide us with a sample of blood. In most cases the blood sample is taken at the same time as your health check sample and there are no follow up visits or treatments involved.

What will happen to my **blood sample** and data?

Your blood sample and data will be stored securely in the NIHR Leicester Cardiovascular Biomedical Research Unit for use in the study.

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How do I know my **participation** in this study will remain confidential?

Your participation in this study will remain confidential as you will be issued with a unique study number. Researchers who analyse your blood will only know your number, not your name.

For further information about why this important research is being carried out, please read the detailed participant information sheet provided. If you wish to withdraw after you have read the detailed information sheet or at any point afterwards you are free to do so, without any prejudice to your care or legal rights.

Taking part is voluntary, but please join in. The results depend on a large sample of people willing to take part and it could be very important in helping to save future lives.