

Practical session 1 Assessing risk and ethical considerations

The aim of this practical session is for you to think through some of the issues involved in the planning and interviewing participants, focusing on risk and other ethical considerations. You'll work in small groups to discuss a scenario and feed back to the rest of the group.

Scenario 2 – Josie (reduced mental capacity due to Alzheimer's)

You are working on a study looking at the different types of care and support services available for older people with dementia and their families, and the impact of those services.

The local community nursing team are working with you to identify suitable and eligible patients who may be approached about taking part in the study. There is a £20 incentive for taking part.

The nursing team suggests that Josie, aged 67, would be a good person to interview. Josie suffers from the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and has been experiencing memory lapses, making it difficult for her to recall recent events. She lives at home with her 68 year old husband, Bill, who has taken on the role of carer. A nurse comes to Josie and Bill's home once a week for two hours to provide respite to Bill. You interview Josie at her home and Bill insists on being present during the interview. Josie finds it difficult to answer some of your questions and starts to show signs of frustration early in the interview, so Bill helps Josie to answer some of the questions.

Think about...

- What things are important to consider in using the local community nursing team as a gatekeeper?
- Are there any issues around consent that you need to consider?
- What would you need to consider during the interview?
- How would you deal with Josie's frustration at not being able to answer some of your questions?
- What may be some of the risks of interviewing Josie?