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The Sore throat Symptom and Complication study: DESCARTE (DEcision rule for severe Symptoms and Complications of Acute Red Throat in Everyday practice)

Thank-you very much for agreeing to take part in this very important research

Brief Instructions

- Include previously well subjects aged **16 or over** with **acute sore throat (14 days or less)**, presenting with sore throat as the main symptom, with an abnormal examination of the pharynx
- Give patient **Patient Information Sheet**
- Give patient **Consent Form**
 - preferably patient signs now, you **post white copy in FREEPOST**, keep green copy, yellow for patient
 - OR patient takes white/green/yellow triplicate home to sign + FREEPOST*
- Fill in **Clinical Proforma** then **you post white copy** to researchers in FREEPOST (green copy for GP)
- Record in your notes that patient is in DESCARTE and 8 digit Patient ID Number

Patient takes home clear wallet containing all yellow documents

- Patient Information Sheet
- Consent form – yellow copy (or, if signing at home, triplicate + FREEPOST)*
- Postcard
- Diary + FREEPOST envelope and thermometers (only present in some packs)

You keep green file with all green pages + plastic sleeve with spare thermometers

- This card
- More Information sheet (i.e. more details for information/reference)
- Thermometer instructions
- Spare thermometers
- + you may like to keep your green copies of consent forms in this file*

You post white pages to researchers in Southampton

- Consent form – post white copy **NOW** to researchers in FREEPOST*
- Clinical proforma – post white copy **NOW** in FREEPOST envelope (green copy for GP)
- Invited but declined form (for patients you ask but who say no) – return in FREEPOST later

Follow up

- If a DESCARTE patient comes back record **worsening symptoms** and **complications** in your notes

*NB If patient takes consent form home to sign they take white/green/yellow triplicate +FREEPOST away. They post white and green copies to the researchers and the researchers forward the green copy to you.

Any queries or problems? Call the study manager Paula Barratt on 023 80 24 1076
Study website address www.descarte.org