

HIPS/18/37 : Psychological barriers and drivers to seasonal influenza vaccination uptake in those with chronic respiratory disease: a mixed methods study

The proposed project will examine psychological barriers and drivers to seasonal influenza vaccine uptake in individuals under 65 years of age with chronic respiratory disease. Seasonal influenza remains a significant public health concern. The most effective way of preventing seasonal influenza is through vaccination, which is recommended for at-risk groups, which includes those under the age of 65 with a chronic medical condition. Individuals with chronic respiratory disease (e.g. severe asthma) represent the largest proportion of this group, but seasonal influenza vaccination uptake in individuals is low, with less than half of those who are eligible choosing to be vaccinated. Urgent research is required in order to identify reasons for this so that interventions can be developed to increase uptake. Our project will focus on psychological factors as these are modifiable and can provide important insights as to why some individuals refuse to be vaccinated while others do not.