

## **DELPHI STUDY INVITATION LETTER (for principle investigators)**

Dear DIPEP Principle Investigator,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a Delphi study to support the National Institute of Health Research Diagnosis of Pulmonary Embolism in Pregnancy (DIPEP) study.

The aim of the DIPEP study is develop a series of clinical decision rules to guide imaging decisions in pregnant and postpartum patients presenting with suspected PE; in order to safely reduce current rates of potentially harmful over-investigation.

As an established expert in this field we are keen to gain your views on how to construct an 'expert consensus' clinical decision rule. This will then be validated using the data of patients enrolled in the DIPEP study.

Specifically, we would like to ask your opinion on the utility of a range of clinical variables for predicting the presence of pulmonary embolism in pregnancy and postpartum using an online survey. It is envisaged that this should take up to 30 minutes to complete. Further details are provided in the attached study information sheet.

After confirming which patient variables have strong utility for predicting, we plan to convene a round table meeting of DIPEP co-investigators, who will aim to reach consensus on the structure of a final expert clinical decision rule.

We feel that your expertise would be extremely beneficial to developing a credible clinical decision rule and would be very grateful if you would consider participating in this Delphi study. If you would like to contribute please inform us by email and we will forward the instructions for the first Delphi round.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

Yours Sincerely

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**DELPHI STUDY and ROUND TABLE CONSENSUS INVITATION LETTER (for DIPEP co-investigators/clinicians on PMG)**

Dear DIPEP Project Management Group member,

I am writing to invite you to participate in a Delphi study and round table consensus meeting to support the National Institute of Health Research Diagnosis of Pulmonary Embolism in Pregnancy (DIPEP) study.

The aim of the DIPEP study is develop a series of clinical decision rules to guide imaging decisions in pregnant and postpartum patients presenting with suspected PE; in order to safely reduce current rates of potentially harmful over-investigation.

As an established expert in this field we are keen to gain your views on how to construct an 'expert consensus' clinical decision rule. This will then be validated using the data of patients enrolled in the DIPEP study.

Specifically, we would like to ask your opinion on the utility of a range of clinical variables for predicting the presence of pulmonary embolism in pregnancy and postpartum using an online survey. It is envisaged that this should take up to 30 minutes to complete. Further details are provided in the attached study information sheet.

After confirming which patient variables have strong utility for predicting PE we'd like you to participate in a face-to-face round table meeting, hoping to reach consensus on the structure of a final expert clinical decision rule.

We feel that your expertise would be extremely beneficial to developing a credible clinical decision rule and would be very grateful if you would consider participating in both the Delphi study and round table consensus meeting. If you would like to contribute please inform us by email and we will forward the instructions for the first Delphi round.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further information.

Yours Sincerely

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