



Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford. OX2 6GG

Tel: +44(0)1865 289300 • [qresearch@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:qresearch@phc.ox.ac.uk)

2<sup>nd</sup> August 2021

Ms Angela Wu  
University of Oxford

Dear Ms Wu,

Reference	OX57
Title	Impact of GP intervention and smoking cessation on secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease in individuals diagnosed with coronary heart disease and stroke
Chief Investigator(s)	Ms Angela Wu
Date Application submitted	27 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
Date Application approved	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2021
Duration of approval, approval granted until	3 years, until 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2024
Special conditions of approval	None

Thank you for submitting your application to QResearch.

### Scientific Opinion

The members of the committee taking part in the review gave a favourable scientific opinion of the application on the basis of the application form and lay summary submitted to QResearch. The committee is satisfied that the research is appropriately designed in relation to its objectives and is likely to add something useful to existing knowledge in accordance with section 4.1.2 of the ethical conditions for QResearch.

<https://www.qresearch.org/media/1155/257790-18em0400-qresearch-conditions-of-ethical-approval-27122018.pdf>

QResearch is a Research Ethics Approved Research Database and therefore this also constitutes research ethics approval. Please quote REC reference (18/EM/0400) in any publication arising from this work.

The reviewers had some remaining guidance which they wish the applicants to consider (and upon which approval is not dependant):

- The claim that the clinician's propensity to intervene to support smoking cessation cannot be associated with the index patient's outcome, current CVD, is simply not true. There are examples in the literature that show that physician preference is not random and can still lead to confounded results if it is associated with patient or provider characteristics. E.g. see for a discussion of underlying assumptions and common inadequate reporting in studies using physician preference as an instrumental variable: [https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356\(21\)00184-0/fulltext](https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(21)00184-0/fulltext)

The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences is part of the NIHR School for

Primary Care Research. Head of Department: Professor Richard Hobbs FRCGP FRCP FESC FMedSci



- Furthermore, the comment about physician preference/propensity to prescribe did not relate to what this means in general, but how it will be defined in this particular study. Prior studies have shown that one gets large variation in point estimates and width of confidence intervals dependent on the exact definition of prescribing preference-based IVs: [https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356\(11\)00209-5/fulltext](https://www.jclinepi.com/article/S0895-4356(11)00209-5/fulltext)
- Given that the intervention exists of 9 categories, will the study be adequately powered to study different effects by all these different intervention categories? Will certain categories potentially be pooled?

### Data Access

Subject to funding and relevant Data Sharing Agreements, the dataset requested will be provided to you.

### Approved documents

The documents reviewed were

Document	version	Date
Application form	2.0	27/07/2021
Letter from applicants in response to first review	NA	26/07/2021
Lay Summary	1.0	11/05/2021
Data Specification	2.0	27/07/2021

### Reviewing Members of the Committee

The members of the scientific committee who took part in the review are listed on the attached sheet.

### Annual Review and research outputs

We will contact you annually for an update on progress with your research.

### Amendments and changes in responsibility

Any changes to the protocol or responsibility of the applicants for the conduct of the research should be notified to [QResearch@phc.ox.ac.uk](mailto:QResearch@phc.ox.ac.uk)



Prof. Rafael Perera  
Chair of QResearch Scientific Committee

### Enclosures:

*List of names and professions of members who took part in the review*

*Copy to: Prof Julia Hippisley-Cox, Chief Investigator of QResearch.*

### Reviewing Members of the Committee

Name	Profession
Professor Rafael Perera	Professor of Medical Statistics

Professor Clare Bankhead	Associate Professor Epidemiology
Dr Paula Dhiman	Postdoctoral Researcher in Meta Research
Ms Madhurima Bhadra	Lay Member
Dr Rebecca Harmston	Lay Member
Dr Franco De Crescenzo	DPhil Candidate, Honorary Psychiatrist
Ms Jennifer Camaradou	Lay Member
Dr Hui Guo	Senior Lecturer in Biostatistics
Dr Koen Pouwels	Senior Researcher in Health Economics
Ms Polly Kerr	Patient and Public Involvement Manager
Dr Tom Ranger	Epidemiologist