

Research Participant Request

Sarah Elkington, OTR, CNT, who is a PhD candidate at The University of Texas at El Paso, is seeking teams of neonatal therapists which include at least one occupational therapist, one physical therapist, and one speech-language pathologist who work in Level III or Level IV NICUs (otherwise known as neonatal therapists) to participate in a qualitative multiple case research study.

Craig and Smith (2020) stated that neonatal therapy is ideally delivered using an “integrated collaborative care model.” Research literature suggests definitions of integrated collaborative care may differ depending on the stakeholder in healthcare (Blount, 2003; Goodwin, 2016). The current research study seeks to define integrated collaborative care from the perspective of neonatal therapists and describe how it is implemented daily.

Teams of neonatal therapists can include up to six neonatal therapists who work at the same NICU as long as at least one occupational therapist, one physical therapist, and one speech-language pathologist are on the team. Each participant on the team will be individually interviewed using videoconferencing regarding their perceptions of using an integrated collaborative care model among their neonatal therapist peers and among their other professional neonatal team peers (e.g., physicians, nurses, social workers, respiratory therapists, etc.). All participants will be asked the same questions and all interviews will remain confidential among participants.

In addition to interviews, which are expected to last up 45-60 minutes, descriptive information about the neonatal team’s worksite, and the neonatal therapists’ education and experience will be requested. All names and participant information will remain confidential throughout the study and in any presentations or publications about the study.

This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board at The University of Texas at El Paso. The study will continue to seek neonatal therapy teams until at least six teams have agreed to participate. Interviews are anticipated to begin June 2021.

Each participant will receive between \$75-100 as an incentive for participation. If you think you and your team may be interested in participating, please contact Sarah Elkington by email or phone for more information and for next steps.

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