**Medical research needs your help**

We know that Scotland, and Glasgow in particular, still faces many health challenges. As a Health Board, we are committed to doing something about it and one important way forward is to do further research into the diseases that affect our population. We need your help. In the past people have been approached about taking part in specific studies but sometimes we couldn’t find everyone we needed. A newly launched initiative in the NHS in Scotland helps match people to research studies suitable for them to take part in – it is called ‘SHARE’ – the **Scottish Health Research Register**.

**What is SHARE?** – a list of names held securely and confidentially by the NHS of those who have said that they would like to be considered as possible participants in health research projects.

**I joined SHARE, how do you know if I am suitable?** – when a new study comes along, we check the computer health records we hold for you to see if you fit the profile that the doctors doing the research are looking for. If you do, we will write to you about the study to ask you directly if you are interested in it. If you are, or want to know more about it, it is simple to get in touch with the research team.

**What kind of research will I be offered?** – the studies will be appropriate for your health condition (that why it is important for us to check your records). They may be simple questionnaires or more complicated investigations of illness. If you are completely healthy, the doctors may be looking for people of your age to compare with those who are unwell.

**Can I say no to a study?** – Absolutely, and you can take your name off the register at any time without giving a reason.

*All studies offered to SHARE volunteers have been approved by an NHS Medical Ethics Committee.*

**How do I join SHARE?**

We have tried to make it as easy as possible:-

- You can complete the enclosed **FREEPOST** form and put it in a post box.
- Complete the form and drop it in the SHARE box at your GP surgery, hospital clinic or local pharmacy.
- Or sign up on-line at [www.nhsggc.org.uk](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk) or [www.registerforshare.org](http://www.registerforshare.org)

PS: If friends or family are interested they can sign up through the web site or phone 0141 232 9515 and we will send them a brochure.