### Lay summary for completed research projects

| CCR No and Study Title: | CCR3236  
How does the experience of advanced cancer affect the male patients' perception of masculinity? |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| CI and Sponsor names:  | Dr Natalie Pattison  
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust |
| Study opening date:    | 15/09/2009  
Study closing date: | 30/06/2012 |
| Proposal and Objectives: | Background: There are documented differences in the way men and women experience health issues and healthcare. This study aims to examine the experience of men with advanced cancer in relation to their perspectives on their gender role.  
Design & Objectives: This was a qualitative study that gathered information via in-depth interviews with the men who told of their experience of cancer and how their disease had affected them as men.  
Sample: Ten men (aged 26-68) who all had advanced cancer.  
Methods & Data Analysis: In-depth interviews to capture narratives of the men’s experiences. Data was analysed using Colaizzi’s (1978) seven stage framework. This is a framework which allows narrative texts to be analysed. |
| Main Findings: Results: | Emergent themes included: thwarted ambition, changing expectations, protection and provision, stoicism and coping, images of masculinity versus images of illness, importance of being a fighter and loss. |
| Implications for practice/future research: Conclusion: The study contributed to growing evidence linking theories of masculinities and men’s health. Findings showed that the experiences of these men were complex and should be handled sensitively.  
Ideas for gender specific interventions and further research were developed from the findings in relation to current literature. |
| Dissemination Plan: | The study was published in the Journal of Clinical Nursing and has been presented at the UK Oncology Nursing Society Conference.  
advanced cancer in relation to their perceptions of masculinity: a qualitative phenomenological study Journal of Clinical Nursing Vol 24 Issue 7-8