decide for themselves. Whether they take part or not, their care will not be affected.

What are the risks of taking part?
The study has no risks of taking part. It is possible that skin scrapings and blood tests may be slightly uncomfortable and blood tests can sometimes cause bruising in elderly people. The doctor will check if there are any reasons why your relative/friend should not have a blood test. If they become distressed at any point we will not continue with the examination.

Will their information be kept confidential?
All the information about your relative/friend will be kept confidential and will be anonymised (no one will know that it is them). We do have a duty of care to contact their GP if we find any health issues during the examination and we will only use their name to contact their doctor about their health in these circumstances.

Is the study over a long period of time?
No. The examinations will take place on two occasions, six weeks apart.

Will their care be affected?
No, throughout the study, their own doctor will remain fully responsible for all their medical care, as usual.

What happens if I decide to withdraw them from the study?
You are free to withdraw your relative/friend from the study at anytime, without giving any reason and without it affecting their care. You will not be able to withdraw any data already collected but this will be anonymised.

Who does the study involve?
The study involves researchers from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Brighton and Sussex Medical School and the NHS. It is funded by the British Skin Foundation and Public Health England. The study has been approved by Camberwell St Giles NRES Committee Ref: 12/LO/0001.

If you have any questions about the study then please feel free to contact us on: 07834 619 826

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There are more details about our study at http://www.idrn.org/scabies/

If you have any concerns or complaints about the study please get in touch with the Scabies Research Team at the above address.
Scabies and skin disease
Scabies is a skin condition caused by a tiny mite which burrows into the skin. Scabies has nothing to do with a lack of cleanliness but it can cause outbreaks in residential care/nursing homes as it can be passed from one person to another through skin contact. Scabies is easily treatable but it can be very distressing because it can be very itchy. In older people the diagnosis of scabies may be difficult because the signs of scabies may be unusual and not easily recognised.

What is the study about?
The purpose of this study is to find out the signs of scabies in people in residential care/nursing home for the elderly and to help to diagnose scabies more easily.

What does the study involve?
This study will involve the residents and staff of residential care/nursing homes for the elderly where there might be an outbreak of scabies. Specialist skin doctors (dermatologists) will be part of the study team and will examine the skin of residents and staff members of the residential care/nursing home who agree to take part. We would like as many of the residents and staff to take part as possible because people can have scabies and not realise it. Knowing who has scabies can help to manage the outbreak more successfully.

What does the examination involve?
The skin examination involves the doctor asking your relative/friend about their general health, past medical history and the medicines they take. The doctor will then ask about any skin problems they may have or have had in the past and any treatments for skin conditions. If your relative/friend cannot answer these questions the staff will help us. We will also check their care records kept at the home.

The doctor will then examine their skin, hair, mouth and nails. To do this they will need to undress but may keep their underwear on. The doctor’s examination will take place in a completely private room in the presence of a member of staff from the home with whom they are comfortable. If there is evidence of scabies then the doctor will ask to perform a couple of simple tests. These test are done because they can prove that a person has scabies.

**Burrow ink test**
The burrow ink test is a simple test where ink is applied to the skin and then wiped away. The ink will show up any burrows where the mite is suspected.

**Skin flakes**
The doctor would like to take a small scraping of skin. This is a painless procedure designed to get some flakes of skin which may contain the mite which causes scabies. The flakes of skin will be examined under a microscope.

**Taking a blood sample**
The doctor may also like to take a small sample of their blood. Together with some of their skin scrapings this will help researchers to better diagnose, treat and prevent scabies in the future. To do this we will need to store their samples under the Brighton and Sussex Medical School Human Tissue Authority Research Licence no: 12561. If you do not wish for your relative/friend to have any blood taken or samples stored that’s ok, you can say no - it is entirely optional. We would still like them to take part in the study and will discard any skin flakes after they have been examined.

**Medical photography**
The doctor may also wish to take photos of their skin. These photos may be used in any publications about the research or in teaching materials to help educate other health professionals. We will not take any photos where your relative/friend could be identified eg facial features, tattoos or unusual scars.

Again, this is entirely optional and if you do not believe that your relative/friend would want to have any photos taken of their skin they do not have to. We would still like them to take part in the study.

**What happens after the examination?**
The doctor will tell them what they have found. They will also write a letter to your relative/friend’s own doctor to let them know too.

**Follow-up in the study**
The doctors will repeat the examination of their skin six weeks later and may wish to take a skin scraping, ink test, blood sample and photos as before. The doctor will tell them what they have found and will write a letter to their own doctor to let them know too.

**Does my relative/friend have to take part?**
No, it is entirely voluntary. It is up to you whether you believe that they would have wanted to take part if they were still able to