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Heart rhythm charities launch patient surveys

July 12 2011, Stratford Upon Avon: Arrhythmia Alliance (A-A) and sister charity, Syncope Trust And Reflex Anoxic Seizures (STARS), The Blackouts Trust, are launching their first global patient surveys to gather information on the patient experience of symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and management of heart rhythm disorders and syncopal conditions.

The results from the surveys will be used to help inform, educate and raise awareness of heart rhythm disorders and syncope globally.

Heart rhythm disorders (cardiac arrhythmias) affect two million people in the UK. Up to 50% of people in the UK will experience a blackout during their lifetime.

Founder and Trustee of Arrhythmia Alliance, Trudie Lobban, said, "Standards of care for syncope and arrhythmias are slowly improving but it's time we took a close look at the patients' experience of their diagnosis and treatment. The responses gathered from the patient surveys will provide valuable evidence to create a current picture of arrhythmia and syncope services in the UK and abroad. I would like to encourage as many patients and carers affected by heart rhythm disorders and syncope to take part in the surveys."

The surveys are available online through the charity websites. For more information, contact Joanna Fearnley joanna@heartrhythmcharity.org.uk or Pippa Mawle pippa@stars.org.uk.

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Editor's Notes

1. A-A website www.heartrhythmcharity.org.uk
2. STARS website www.stars.org.uk
3. Heart rhythm disorders or cardiac arrhythmias, are the number one killer in the UK. Arrhythmias kill more people than lung cancer, breast cancer and AIDS combined.
4. A minimum of about 1 of every 85 members of the British population, from infants to the elderly, will have a heart that occasionally or consistently beats too quickly, too slowly, abnormally or irregularly.
5. 100,000 people die every year from sudden cardiac arrest resulting from a lethally fast heart rhythm.

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6. Each year in the UK as many as 30% of adults and 39% of children are misdiagnosed with epilepsy when in fact they may have convulsive syncope.
7. 10% of falls in the elderly are due to syncope.