

INFORMATION LETTER FOR eHEALTH RESEARCH PROJECT

Principal Investigators:

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Introduction:

This letter will explain in detail: the focus of the study, the potential risks and benefits, and your rights as a participant. The purpose of this letter is to help you make an informed decision on participating in this research. If there is anything you do not understand please ask one of the primary investigators for clarification prior to providing your consent. A copy of this information letter and consent form is also available for download on the research website, <https://ehealthresearchpro.wixsite.com/website>.

Invitation to Participate:

You are invited to participate in a research study investigating the use of digital technologies to enable health communication between health professionals and college educated young adults between the ages of 18-26. The principal investigators, Julia Le, Megan Li and Isabelle Tate are all postgraduate research students at Humber College Lakeshore Campus. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

You are being asked to participate in a 15-20 minute phone interview to discuss your thoughts on digital e-health technologies.

Purpose:

The purpose of the study is to provide a better understanding of the use of Web-based health information and areas where this channel of communication can be improved by measuring the differences in information appraisal between health professionals and college-educated young adults (ages 18-26). A better understanding of this channel of communication will benefit patients/clients, health professionals and will provide new recommendations for experts in health policy, promotion and funding agencies for eHealth.

Who will Participate:

For students: Any individuals between the ages of 18-26, who are currently attending post-secondary or recently graduated (graduation date is within the last 12 months) from post-secondary. Participants should have the ability to provide free and informed



consent and be able to participate in an interview. Participants also must be Canadian residents.

Your Rights as a Participant

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may end the interview at any time by verbally stating you wish to do so to the interviewer.

Risk and Benefits:

This research will provide college educated young adults recommendations to improve their understanding on sources of online health information, their appraisal of health information and provide healthcare providers information as to how better reach this demographic. Healthcare providers will gain a better understanding on how to improve their communication with college educated young adults and how to direct them to appropriate online sources of health information.

None of the data collected will be of a sensitive nature. The researchers envision no major risk to participants, other than the potential risk of mental harm as you may be reminded of the emotional time when you used online sources for personal health information.

Confidentiality:

No identifying factors will be recorded from the interview, interview data will be aggregated to increase privacy. Only the above listed researchers will have access to collected data and no raw data will be shared. During the interview the researchers will be taking down your responses, but it will not be video, or audio recorded at all.

Anything that is discussed in the interview will not be attached to a participant's name or other identifying factors.

The researchers ask that students refrain from speaking about personal sensitive information, such as:

- Providing information about a personal illness they have
- Providing information about personal health outcomes

Should participants begin to discuss sensitive information unprompted, the researchers will ask them to stop and redirect the interview discussion back to a general discussion.



Data Storage and Destruction:

All collected information will be safely stored and locked in a secured area that will only be accessed by those conducting the research. Additionally, any information stored on an electronic device will be stored in a secured network that is password protected. All information collected in connection with this research will be destroyed 1 year after the research is completed. During this year the data will be stored at Humber College - Lakeshore campus at the School of Liberal Arts & Sciences office.

Withdrawal:

Participants can stop the interview at any time without penalty. Should participants wish to stop the interview early, the data will not be used in the study.

If individuals complete the interview and later wish to withdraw their information, they must contact the researchers no later than **February 27, 2019**. After this date, data analysis will have begun.

Ethics Clearance:

This research project has been approved as part of a course and has been identified as a low risk study. If you have any questions regarding the approval please contact Mary Takacs, program coordinator, Mary.Takacs@humber.ca.

