

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 available for download.

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.

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 healthcare professionals: Any individuals who are currently practicing a regulated health profession as defined by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term care. Participants should have the ability to provide free and informed consent and be able to complete a survey. Acceptable healthcare professions are listed below. Participants must also be Canadian residents.



Regulated Health Professions

- Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology
- Chiropody and Podiatry
- Chiropractic
- Dental Hygiene
- Dental Technology
- Dentistry
- Denturism
- Dietetics
- Homeopathy
- Kinesiology
- Massage Therapy
- Medical Laboratory Technology
- Medical Radiation Technology
- Medicine
- Midwifery
- Naturopathy
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy
- Opticianry
- Optometry
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy
- Psychology
- Psychotherapy
- Respiratory Therapy
- Traditional Chinese Medicine and Acupuncture

Your Rights as a Participant

Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may leave the study at any time by exiting your web browser.

Once you click submit on your survey you are not able to withdraw your data past this date, as it will be coded and kept anonymous.

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 survey, survey 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.



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.

Incentives:

Participants who complete the survey have a chance to enter a draw to win a \$30 Tim Horton's gift card. The winner will be contacted via email no later than **February 28, 2019**.

Withdrawal:

Participants can stop the survey at any time without penalty. If individuals withdraw from the study before data collection is completed the incomplete data will be removed. However, after data collection is complete, data cannot be withdrawn because the data will be stored without identifiers.

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.

