University of Chester

Participant Information Sheet - Patient

Promoting Accessible Choice

Dear Participant,

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

What is the purpose of the study?

The aim of the study is to investigate the lived experiences of gender non-conforming individuals when accessing abortion care. The aim of this is to improve access and support in the future to this patient group, and also to educate health care providers using real life experiences as the basis for this. This is a unique opportunity for you to draw on any lived experiences you may have had of services like this, with the aim of communicating what you would like health care professionals to know when caring for anyone who identifies outside of the "traditional" gender binary.

Why have I been chosen?

You have been chosen because you responded to the call for participants, and meet the criteria for participating in this study.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason, up until the time the researcher has processed the data. A decision to withdraw at any time, or a decision not to take part, will not affect the standard of care you receive in any way.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and asked to sign the consent form. This will give your consent to be invited to attend an individual interview. At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to raise and discuss your views and experiences relating to the service provided. You will be asked to recall any lived experiences you have of accessing abortion services, and any changes you would like to see to bring about a more comfortable and inclusive experience in the future. It will be an individual interview with just the researcher, which will last for approximately an hour. With your permission, the interview will be audio taped. No-one will be identifiable in the final report.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

Due to the emotional nature of the study, there is the potential that you may experience some distress when recalling certain experiences. I would like to reassure you that if you wish to stop the interview at any stage then this will be respected – it will be up to you if the data collected up until that point will still be used or not. If you feel that further support will be required, information of services specific to your needs will be available to you at all times.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?
As a patient it is possible that you may welcome the opportunity to share and discuss your views and experiences. By taking part, you will be contributing to the development of the service through sharing your views, which will hopefully benefit patients in the future.

What if something goes wrong?
If you wish to complain or have any concerns about any aspect of the way you have been approached or treated during the course of this study, please contact:

Professor Wayne Morris
University of Chester
Parkgate Road
Chester
CH1 4BJ
w.morris@chester.ac.uk

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?
All information which is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential so that only the researcher carrying out the research will have access to such information. Information will be kept in a secure location; in addition to this, pseudonyms will be applied and identifying details (e.g. places of work etc) will be altered.

What will happen to the results of the research study?
The results will be analysed, using a robust analytical framework, to identify any common themes that have occurred throughout the study. As previously mentioned, the aim of this is to improve accessibility and patient care for all; therefore there is the possibility that the results will contribute to the formation of a sound basis for future practice. It is likely that the research will be publicly available upon completion; however all results will be anonymised. Data collected from this project may be retained and published in an anonymised form. By agreeing to participate in this project, you are consenting to the retention and publication of data.

Who may I contact for further information?
If you would like more information about the research before you decide whether or not you would be willing to take part, please contact:

Emma Furnival: 0903237@chester.ac.uk

The University does not accept responsibility for any harm experienced apart from that which is proven to have been caused through its negligence. In the unlikely event that you experience harm through your participation in the research, and this is due to the negligent conduct of the researchers, then you may have grounds to bring legal action. If you choose to bring such action, you may incur legal costs.

Thank you for your interest in this research.