

## **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS**

### **Development and implementation of resources on COVID-19 to support BAME communities**

You are being invited to take part in a research study. Before you decide whether to take part, 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.

#### **What is the purpose of the study?**

Growing evidence suggests that ethnic minorities in the UK have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 compared to people from white ethnic backgrounds. The UK's most recent Intensive Care National Audit and Research Centre shows that people from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds are particularly affected, with 34% of critically ill COVID-19 patients and 19% of COVID-19 fatalities being from these backgrounds, despite making up only 14% of the UK population. Much of the currently available public health guidance around COVID-19 has been in dominant languages and may not have reached elderly minorities, who are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19.

We aim to develop and implement culturally appropriate health education resources on COVID-19 to increase health awareness and understanding among older people from BAME backgrounds. The project will mainly focus on Indian and Nepalese communities in Kent and Sussex to identify their health information needs regarding COVID-19. We will then work together with these communities to develop health education resources, tailored to their needs and supported by evidence. Once we develop the resources, we plan to implement these resources liaising with community organisations, local authorities and other relevant bodies.

The study will run for a total of six months and we hope to interview elderly minorities, their families and healthcare professionals.

#### **Why have I been invited to participate?**

You have been invited as you are a healthcare professional working closely with minority communities. We believe that your insights will be valuable to address the information needs of the minority communities. We are aiming to interview around 10 healthcare professionals (clinicians/GPs/nurses and other allied healthcare professionals) for this project.

#### **Do I have to take part?**

It is completely up to you to decide whether to take part. If you do decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and be asked to verbally consent (which will be recorded) to be a part of the study. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw from participation at any time and without giving a reason. If you want to withdraw your data from the study you will have two weeks (after the interview has been conducted), after which it will no longer be possible to withdraw data.

#### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

If you wish to take part, the researcher will arrange a time which is convenient for you to conduct the phone/ online interview. You will be given the opportunity to ask any questions prior to the interview, and during the call. The interview will last approximately 1 hour and will give you the opportunity to share your experiences of working with BAME communities, the information needs of these communities and ideas for health education intervention resources.

In addition to the interview, we will request some of you to be involved in the co-production process in order to design and develop health education materials. You will attend regular meetings (around three meetings) over a 6-month project period. In the meetings, ideas will be discussed on the content and format of the health education materials.

#### **What are the possible risks and benefits of taking part?**

Your feedback provides valuable information for the service and we hope that the findings from this consultation will be used by local authorities and the NHS to improve services for BAME communities. We don't think there will be any disadvantages or risks to you taking part in the consultation and you have the right to withdraw from participation at any time.

#### **Will my information in this study be kept confidential?**

All participant information will be kept anonymous and data collected will be stored in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018. The researchers will adhere to the requirements of the University of Sussex's Research Data Management Policy. A unique study identifier (participant number) will be allocated to each participant at the time of consent.

Interview recordings will be transferred from the digital recording device to a password protected computer and recordings will be destroyed straight after transcription. No one will be given access to the information collected except for the researchers.

#### **What should I do if I want to take part?**

Taking part is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw from participation at any time without needing to give an explanation, and without bias or consequence. If you do wish to take part, you can contact the researcher (details below) and they will arrange a time to call you for the phone/ online interview.

#### **What will happen to the results of the research study?**

All outputs from this study will be anonymised. You will be offered a summary of the report. The findings will be submitted for national and international conferences and any further suitable events. The results of the study will be written up and published in a scientific journal.

The information resources developed from this study will be distributed using the network of community organisations, local authorities and other channels (for e.g. social media, local newspapers and radio stations).

#### **Who is organising and funding the research?**

The research is funded by the National Institute for Health Research Academic Research Collaboration Kent Surrey and Sussex (NIHR ARC KSS), and is being conducted by the Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) in collaboration with University of Sussex, Brighton and Sussex University Hospital Trust, and University of Surrey.

#### **Who has approved this study?**

The research has been approved by the University of Sussex Research Governance Office and the ethical review application number of the study is: ER/BSMS3653/6

#### **Insurance**

The University of Sussex has insurance in place to cover its legal liabilities in respect of this study.

#### **Contact for further information**

For any further information you can contact the research team on the contact details below:

Principal investigator: Dr Priya Paudyal, Tel. 07896182850 or email: [p.paudyal@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:p.paudyal@bsms.ac.uk)

Project Research Fellow: Saliha Majeed-Hajaj, email: [s.majeed@bsms.ac.uk](mailto:s.majeed@bsms.ac.uk)

If you have any concerns about the way in which the study has been conducted, you should contact the University of Sussex Research Governance Office who reviewed the project (for staff research). Their contact details are:

E: [rgoffice@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:rgoffice@sussex.ac.uk)

Thank you for the time you have taken to read this information sheet.