

APPENDIX A: PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

Early psychological support for the family unit of amputees.

Researcher: Gemma L Broughton

Participant information sheet

You are invited to take part in a research study to determine to what extent do amputee family members believe early familial psychological input would aid transition to life as an amputee family.

You are being asked to participate as you are the family member of an amputee and help in their activities of daily living.

Before deciding on whether to take part, please take time to carefully consider the following information. If anything is unclear, or if you would like further information, please feel free to contact the researcher using the details provided below. Thank you for your time and consideration.

What would taking part involve?

Participation would include being interviewed by the researcher, this would be to gain your opinion on life as an amputee family. The interview would take place on an online platform e.g. Microsoft teams, this ensures you can take part from your own home. The interview would take approximately 30-45 minutes and would be organised for a time suitable to you. The interviews will be recorded with your permission for the purpose of transcription. The recording will be deleted following transcription. Participation is entirely voluntary and, you can withdraw at any time up to the point of transcription of the interview (one week following the interview). Should you decide to withdraw, all data identifiable to will be deleted. Your legal rights will not be affected.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There is no direct benefit to you as participant. The benefit of taking part is to provide information that can be used to help other amputee families in the future.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

The risks associated with this study are minimal. However, talking about transition to life as an amputee may result in discomfort. There is risk of emotional distress during the interview, this would occur if the question/s reminded you of a particularly challenging time in your life. You will be able to pause or withdraw during the interview at any point. You do not have to answer any question that you feel uncomfortable with. Simply inform the researcher in such situations.

How will my information be kept confidential?

All data will be treated confidentially and stored securely. Your identity will be protected through use of pseudonyms, and any identifying details will be removed from transcripts. Audio recordings will be deleted after transcription and anonymised data will be securely stored on a password-protected device. Only the researcher and their supervisor (and examiner if required) will have access to the data and no identifying information will be included in any reports or publications. However, if any information is disclosed during the interview that suggests a risk of harm to yourself or others, the researcher is required to report this to the relevant authorities. In such cases, confidentiality may need to be broken to ensure safety. You will be informed in such a situation.

What will happen to my data?

The data collected will be analysed using thematic analysis to identify patterns of responses from all participants. The findings will be used to produce a Master's dissertation for the partial fulfilment of the MSc in Psychology at the University of Wolverhampton. A summary of the findings can be provided upon request. The study's results may also be presented in academic conferences, journal articles but you will not be identified in any report.

What if I don't want to go on with the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary and, should you decide to withdraw, all your data which is not yet anonymised will be deleted. The interview, however, will be transcribed one week after the interview and the interview will be anonymised during the transcription. Once anonymised, there is no way to connect the data back to you so your data would not be able to be withdrawn past this point.

Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed by the University of Wolverhampton Health Professions Ethics Sub Panel Committee.

What will happen to the results of this study?

The results of this research study will be primarily used as part of the researcher's dissertation. The findings may be presented at scientific or professional meetings or published in scientific journals. You will not be identified in any report.

Who do I contact if I want to find out more before I decide whether to take part?

If you have any questions, you can contact the researcher by emailing: g.l.broughton@wlv.ac.uk
You can also contact the research supervisor: Akhtar Wallymahmed by emailing: Akhtar.wallymahmed@wlv.ac.uk

What if I have any concerns?

If you have any concerns, please contact Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange – Professor Prashant Pillai MBE p.pillai@wlv.ac.uk or the administrative lead and research integrity manager Jill Morgan J.Morgan4@wlv.ac.uk

Thank you for your interest in my study.