



Chronic illness and online networking study: Information Sheet

Introduction and study purpose

You have expressed an interest to participate in a study about the use of Facebook by people with diabetes. The aim of the study is to examine what the use of Facebook, both via computers and possibly smartphones, mean to adults with diabetes and how it relates to their everyday practices and self-management behaviours. The research is being conducted by Dr Nelya Koteyko at Queen Mary University of London and Professor Barrie Gunter at the University of Leicester.

The researchers are looking to recruit patients who can speak English, are aged between 21-65 years, have used Facebook for at least six months, and have either type 1 or type 2 diabetes.

Your valuable contribution to the study will be used to help inform initiatives that use online technologies to improve the quality of life of people with diabetes, and will help these researchers to take their work forward in this important area.

Before you decide whether or not to participate, it is important for you to understand what participation in the study will involve for you. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. Please contact Nelya at the address below, for more information.

What will I have to do if I take part?

You will participate in the phase of the study that involves interviews. Interviews will comprise a free flowing 60-80 minute discussion with project researcher (Daniel Hunt) or the project leader Nelya Koteyko. Participants will be asked to sign a study consent form. You will be sent a copy of the interview transcript.

Where and when will we meet?

We can meet at the Diabetes UK office in Camden or at the Queen Mary University of London campus in Mile End. Alternatively, the discussion could take place at your house, or any other place where you usually spend your time, wherever you feel most comfortable. You can also choose a good time to meet. You may choose to bring your computer or smartphone with you if you decide to talk us through your Facebook activities. Our researcher will also have a laptop with them.

Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You can stop participating in the study at any time, without giving a reason.

Is there any compensation for taking part?

Participants will receive high street £20 vouchers as a 'thank you' for participation in the interviews.

Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?

Yes. Ethical and legal practice will be followed, and all of your information will be handled in confidence.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is being funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), and is sponsored by the University of Leicester.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

Anonymised quotes from the interviews will be made available to a range of people including other chronic illness sufferers, health professionals, relevant Government agencies and researchers through specially written reports, established website reports, presentations and journal publications. Your data, in the form of interview transcripts and audio-recordings of interviews will be offered to the ESRC funding body for possible selective archiving (storage) for an unlimited time for use by registered bonafide researchers. All of these data will be checked to make sure that they are completely anonymous first and we will sign a licence agreement stating the conditions under which other researchers are able to use them. Archiving will help to preserve, secure and control access to anonymous data.

How can I get in touch?

You can ring Nelya on 07791259895 (mobile) or email n.koteyko@qmul.ac.uk.

You can contact Daniel on 07756149777 (mobile) or email d.hunt@qmul.ac.uk.

Address: Language Centre, SFFL, Frances Bancroft Building, Queen Mary, University of London, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.