

## PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET TEMPLATE

### STUDY TITLE

Digital platforms' role in re-skilling healthcare professionals for Covid-19 recovery

### INVITATION PARAGRAPH

You are being invited to take part in an interview which forms part of our study with MedicineAfrica. Before you decide whether or not 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 and get in touch with the research team if you have any questions or concerns.

### WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY?

Our study aims to evaluate the impact that an online course on Covid-19 has on healthcare professionals (nurses, doctors, health workers) in Somaliland. The course will be delivered online and for free through MedicineAfrica. A qualitative methodology will be followed so that researchers capture healthcare professionals' initial expectations prior to the start of the course and compare them to their knowledge and skills gained on completion of the course.

The study has three main purposes:

- To create evidence as to whether and how digital platforms can be used as a rapid intervention to educate and re-skill healthcare workers in emergencies.
- To address the problems of Covid-19 misinformation and lack of understanding around Covid-19 prevention, that are still causing unnecessary deaths in Somaliland and other developing settings.

### WHY HAVE I BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

You have been invited to participate in the study because you have registered to attend the online course on Covid-19, delivered through MedicineAfrica.

### DO I HAVE TO TAKE PART?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do 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 and without giving a reason.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME IF I TAKE PART?

If you decide to take part and sign the consent form, you will complete a questionnaire and participate in a one-hour (at most) online interview at a time of convenience.

### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF TAKING PART?

Taking part will help not only us, as researchers, but the wider academic and medical and other communities to understand how digital platforms can be used as an intervention in periods of crisis, such as the pandemic, and how they can play a part in Continuous Professional Development opportunities.

### WILL MY INFORMATION IN THIS STUDY BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?<sup>1</sup>

Collected data will be kept in secure, university-owned servers and the researchers' password-protected laptops to which no one else outside the research team will have access. This will be done according to

standard practice at the University of Sussex. The study will **not** be analysing and using participants' personal information (e.g. name, address). Data related to participants' town/community and/or places of study/work will be anonymised as per each participant's preferences indicated in their consent form.

### **WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I WANT TO TAKE PART?**

Please take a look at this information sheet and the appended consent form and either return a completed and signed copy of the latter to the research team by email or provide verbal consent at the beginning of the interview. Get in touch with the researchers below if you have questions.

### **WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH STUDY?**

The findings of the study will be published in academic and other outlets (journals, conference proceedings, practitioner magazines/blogposts) of non-commercial nature. We will not be processing participants' names; we will handle all the information in a confidential manner and no participant will be able to be identified in any of the project's outputs.

### **WHO IS ORGANISING AND FUNDING THE RESEARCH?**

This research is led by Dr Dimitra Petrakaki, University of Sussex. The project has received funding by the UKRI- HEIF.

### **WHO HAS APPROVED THIS STUDY?**

The research has been approved by the Social Sciences & Arts Cross-Schools Research Ethics Committee (C-REC). The ethical review application number of the study is ER/DP254/5

### **CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

If you have any questions or concerns relating to this research please contact the principal Investigator Dr Dimitra Petrakaki (D.Petrakaki@sussex.ac.uk) and/or Ruth Stirton, Chair of the Social Sciences and Arts Cross Schools Research Ethics Committee (r.stirton@sussex.ac.uk).

### **INSURANCE**

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

### **THANK YOU**

### **DATE**

4 May 2021