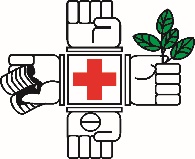
**INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS**

*King’s College Research Ethics Committee Reference Number: 4659*

*Anusandhan Trust Institutional Ethics Committee*

**YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET**

**Title of study: Practices, regulation and accountability in the evolving private healthcare sector: lessons from Maharashtra State, India (July 2017 to June 2019)**

We would like to invite you to participate in this study as a respondent in the interviews we will be conducting. This participation is completely voluntary - you should only take part if you want to. There will be no consequences if you choose not to take part.

Before you decide if you want to take part, you need to have information about the study, understand why it is being done and what your participation will involve. Please read the following information carefully. You can discuss it with other people if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information.

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

The aim of the research is to (i) collect information from different sources on the extent and characteristics of the private healthcare sector in Maharashtra, (ii) to study the existing regulations for the private sector and understand their strengths and weaknesses, and (iii) to use these findings to develop new approaches for the regulation of this private healthcare sector. You are being invited to take part in this study because you have knowledge and experience relating to the private healthcare sector in Maharashtra.

We will be talking to many medical professionals, administrators, managers, patients’ groups, as part of the study and you will not be the only respondent.

**Who are the people/organisations doing this study?**

This project is funded by the Joint Health Systems Research Initiative coordinated by the UK Medical Research Council. It is a collaborative study being conducted by researchers from King’s College London and SATHI-CEHAT Pune. SATHI is an action centre of Anusandhan Trust Mumbai that is engaged in addressing health-related issues from a social perspective and has been working on the issues related to private health sector in Maharashtra for several years now.

**What will I be asked to do if I agree to be part of the study?**

The researcher(s) will discuss the interview procedure with you and make an appointment with you to interview you at a time and place that is convenient for you. You will be asked to sign a consent form before the interview starts and will have the opportunity to ask any questions you have about the study.

The interview will take approximately one hour, during which time you will be asked about your views and experience of / in private healthcare in Maharashtra and of aspects of health sector regulation. You are entitled to end your participation at any time during the interview. If you agree to be a respondent, we will ask to audio-record your interview to ensure that we do not miss anything you say. Any recordings will be transcribed for analysis by the research team.

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

There are no direct personal benefits. This study is being conducted in the wider public interest. The information obtained from the study will be used to understand better the functioning of the private healthcare sector, and subsequently to help sensitise doctors, patient-doctor forums, civil society groups and policy-makers about the issues relating to private healthcare and to promote ethical and rational healthcare. The findings will be analysed and published as research papers in academic journals and as articles in newspapers, and will be used to inform healthcare regulatory frameworks in Maharashtra and more widely in India.

There are no foreseeable risks to taking part in this study. We have explained below the steps that will be taken to ensure confidentiality of the information you may give.

**Will my participation in the study be kept confidential?**

All audio-recordings and transcripts of the interview will be kept locked and confidential and only the research team will have access to them. You will not be personally identified during any dissemination of results from this study unless you specifically agree to this during the consent process before the start of the interview.

On the consent form you will be given a choice of one of these following options:

* full identification – when your name and identifying features can be used in reports and publications
* partial identification – when your name and obvious identifying features will be removed from the labelling, the transcript of the interview and any reports of findings, but reference may be made to your level of seniority and type of organisation, or to other general characteristics. For example: ‘A senior doctor with over a decade of experience as a radiologist, working in a well-established/well-known hospital in Pune, explained that…’

All recordings will be stored on a password-protected secure server and destroyed two years after the end of the study. You can withdraw all or some of the research data relating to you at any point up until 30th June 2018.

**Who should I contact for further information?**

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please visit the research project website (https://unsettlinghealthcare.org/projects/corporatisation-and-regulation/) or contact the lead researchers using the following contact details:

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SATHI

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Professor Susan Fairley Murray

Department of International Development

Chesham Building, Strand

King’s College London

Email: susan\_fairley.murray@kcl.ac.uk

**What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?**

If this study has harmed you in any way or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact SATHI and/or King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

Dr. Anant Bhan

Chairperson, Institutional Ethics Committee

Anusandhan Trust

dranantbhan@yahoo.com

022 2667 3154/ 2667 3571

The Chair,

Geography, Social Science, Health & Medicine Research Ethics Panel

King’s College London

rec@kcl.ac.uk

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.**