TEMPLATE FOR PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

REC Reference Number – N/A
Date – 01/04/2023
Version 1.0

Title of study
MediPill – A healthcare app for Care home staff

Name of principal investigator/researcher
Ayesha Kayani

Invitation paragraph
When conducting any research or testing, it is important to obtain the consent of all participants involved. Before beginning the testing stage of my app, I would like to request your consent to participate in this study. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you are free to withdraw from the study at any time without any consequences. By participating, you understand that your feedback and opinions will be used to improve the MediPill app. Any information that you provide will be kept confidential and only used for research purposes. Your name will not be used in any publications or reports.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns before giving your consent to participate.

What is the purpose of the study?
The purpose of this study is to help improve the development of my healthcare app for my university project. My research covers the difficulties patients and healthcare workers encounter in controlling medication reminders, as well as the potential advantages of utilizing a healthcare app for medicine administration in the present healthcare industry.

To evaluate the efficacy of the MediPill application in managing prescription reminders, enhance its design and functionality, and boost user experience, I aim to gather user feedback and pinpoint areas of improvement.

The duration of my study is until I graduate in June. Improving the app's design and functionality through user testing and feedback from potential users is the goal of my research.

Why have I been invited to take part?
For my healthcare app development project, I have invited individuals over the age of 18 to take part in my study. I require participants who are competent and willing to utilize a healthcare app for medication management, with prior experience in managing medication reminders being useful.

I've asked participants to join my study to give valuable feedback and improve my healthcare app's design and functionality. My objective is to guarantee the app addresses the requirements of users and manages medication reminders effectively.

The participants' involvement in the study is optional. I prioritize establishing a safe and comfortable space where participants can freely share their thoughts and feedback without feeling any pressure or obligation.

The study's scale and resources will dictate the number of participants involved. Making it clear to participants how many others are involved in the study will help them understand how important their feedback is in improving the app for future users.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part in my project study is voluntary, and you may leave the study whenever you want without any negative outcomes. Declining to participate won't affect subsequent treatment or assessment, and you can refrain from answering questions that cause discomfort or intrusion. You may choose to participate and sign a consent form but may withdraw your participation without providing any reason.

Your data can't be withdrawn from the study once it's been anonymized or published. Even though data cannot be withdrawn once published, any data collected before withdrawal will be confidentially treated and not used in the study.

What will happen if I take part?

My project necessitates that you engage and use my app frequently until my graduation in June. Using the app and providing feedback on its usability and functionality is what you will mainly be doing. Participation in surveys or interviews might be necessary to provide detailed feedback on your experience with the app.

I am concentrating on meeting the needs of users by employing a user-centred design approach in my research. Users' feedback and insights inform the development of the app.

The app collects interactions and feedback anonymously while keeping them confidential. The research is conducted entirely online, so participants can join from anywhere.

Your involvement in the project is entirely of your own volition and you have the option to withdraw whenever without providing a reason.

What do I have to do if I take part?

Participation involves using my app and giving feedback on your user experience. Providing feedback on the app may involve testing features, expressing your preferences, and providing suggestions for improvement. Asking you to complete surveys or participate in interviews is possible to obtain more detailed feedback. Being a part of the study will demand that you devote your time and energy.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

As this is a study for developing an app and involves no physical testing, there are no potential disadvantages or risks of harm to participants. Sharing personal information or opinions may make participants feel uneasy or uncomfortable during surveys. To alleviate this risk, participants will be guaranteed that their answers will be confidential and anonymous.

Data privacy statement

City, University of London is the sponsor and the data controller of this study based in the United Kingdom. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The legal basis under which your data will be processed is City’s public task.

Your right to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in a specific way in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal-identifiable information possible (for further information please see https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-data-protection/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/lawful-basis-for-processing/public-task/).

You can find out more about how City handles data by visiting https://www.city.ac.uk/about/governance/legal. If you are concerned about how we have processed your personal data, you can contact the Information Commissioner's Office (IOC) https://ico.org.uk/.

What will happen to the results?

For my university project and any future academic publications, I intend to utilize the results of this study as the researcher. Considering that they comply with ethical guidelines; the implications may be communicated at events or with other academics. Participants' anonymity will be protected, and personal information kept confidential in any publications or presentations of the research results. Identity of participants will remain undisclosed in any publication or presentation.

Who has reviewed the study?

This study has been approved by City, University of London Research Ethics Committee.

What if there is a problem?

If you have any problems, concerns or questions about this study, you should ask to speak to a member of the research team. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through City's complaints procedure. To complain about the study, you need to phone 020 7040 3040. You can then ask to speak to the Secretary to Senate Research Ethics Committee and inform them that the name of the project is MediPill.

You can also write to the Secretary at:

Annah Whyton
Research & Enterprise Office
City, University of London
Northampton Square
London, EC1V 0HB
Email: senaterec@city.ac.uk

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet.