

## **Appendix 2 - PARTICIPANT INFORMATION CARD**

Ethical review reference number: -----

**Title:** Access to primary health care and ambulatory care sensitive hospitalisations in the Maldives

I would like to invite you to participate in the above research project which forms part of my PhD research. You should only participate if you want to. Disagreeing to participate would not disadvantage you in any form. Before you continue to answer this questionnaire, I would appreciate if you take some time to read this information card so that you can understand the purpose of this research and your involvement. You can take time and clarify your doubts and ask questions relevant to this study. Also, you can discuss this with others if you wish to do so.

My study intends to assess how differing levels of self-reported access to primary health care services influence ambulatory care sensitive hospitalisations in the Maldives, facilitated by transportation, travel time, and trust in provider. Ambulatory care sensitive hospitalisation is a set of preventable or avoidable hospitalisations. Theoretically, if patients with asthma, diabetes, chronic heart failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and hypertension are able to access primary health care (health care provided by island health centre) and be treated in the outpatients and in the community, then this would have reduced the risk of hospitalisation.

It is envisaged that this study will add value to existing scientific literature by critically examining and broadening the knowledge as to how individual's perceived lack of access (self-reported access) is associated with ambulatory care sensitive hospitalisations; and what factors deemed to explain primary health care access in situations such as the Maldives that has a unique context than many other countries from where evidence have been accumulated. As there are other island nations with similar archipelago that may have similar situations from where literature is sparse, this work will add value to understand these situations as well.

I am inviting men and women aged 20 years and above from 19 islands of the Maldives that have been selected based on population density of the islands and type of health care facility available. The respondents will represent the total population of the Maldives and you have been selected on this basis. Yet, your participation is voluntary. You are welcome to ask any questions relevant to this study and you are not supposed to answer the questionnaire until you are satisfied with the answers given by the interviewer to your questions.

If you decide to take part in this research you will be asked to sign the consent form that you are willing to be interviewed by the interviewer, audio-taped, make yourself available if further information is required and allow the researchers to access your personnel hospital records. You are free to cease your participation until (date) ----- without giving any reason.

The information that you provide will be kept confidential and any information that may identify you will not be linked to answers or any form of written outputs and publications. All data analysis will be anonymised. The anonymity of the information will be protected by using study codes on data documents.

This study has been approved by University of Canterbury's Ethics Committee for research involving human participants. For further information please visit <https://www.canterbury.ac.nz/study/ethics/human-ethics-committee/>. The final report will be publicised in the form of a thesis as partial fulfilment of my doctorate degree.

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact me or my supervisors using the following contact details: ----- . If this study has harmed you in any form or wish to make a complaint and require further advice, you can contact University of Canterbury using the contact details below: -----.