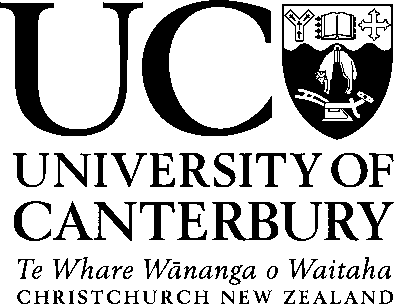
## Information Sheet



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Date: **10 February 2020**

HEC Ref:

# Project title: Access to primary healthcare in the Maldives

My name is Fazeela Mohamed. I am a doctoral candidate at the university of Canterbury in school of health sciences. I would like to provide some information about my research. This research is about how patients access to primary health care services in the Maldives.

From the research conducted previously we are aware that effective primary health care reduces hospital admission among patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and chronic heart failure. We are aware that the Maldives keeps providing primary health care services including:

* Health education and awareness
* Diagnosis and treatment and
* Management of disease condition

However, we are concerned with the higher rates of hospital admission for these diseases. There is a concern that poor access to primary health care may be related to these hospital admissions. So, I like to study the link between transportation, travel time, and trust in provider and access to primary health care services. I am inviting you to participate in my research because you belong to one of the regions I am interested to study in my research and you are diagnosed with one or more of the below diseases I am studying:

* High blood pressure
* Chronic heart failure
* Asthma
* Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
* Diabetes

If you choose to participate in this research:

* Researcher will contact you by phone to arrange a time for the interview
* The interview will be in-person in an appropriate public place
* The interview will take around 30 minutes of your time
* Standard precautions will be taken to ensure your safety at the time of interview. For this:
  + Before the interview, the researcher will talk over the telephone with you. You will be questioned whether you are not well, travelled outside the country lately, or have been in contact with someone that is suspected to have, or has had Covid-19
  + During the interview, you and the interviewer will be expected to keep a distance of one meter (about three feet)
  + The interviewer will wear a face mask at the time of interview
  + Face mask and hand sanitizer will be provided for you by the researcher
* The researcher may take part in the interview by Skype, Zoom, WhatsApp, or Viber. But at any time the researcher will not audio or video record the interview. You have the right to choose if you don’t want to be observed by the researcher while participating the study.
* We will store the information you give securely in digital format and we will not reveal your identity to anyone else and all the information you give to us will be kept confidential
* We will use all information you give to us only for the purpose of this doctoral research

We do not anticipate any risk for you if choose to answer the question paper. But if you become concerned about your health condition, we advise you to discuss this with your primary health care provider.

Your participation is voluntary, and you have the right to withdraw before starting the interview and during the interview. If you withdraw at the time of the interview, I will remove all the information related to you. Once the interview is finished and it is entered in to the system it will remain unidentifiable. So, we will not be able to find the exact information you give and delete it.

The results of this study will be published as a doctoral thesis. The digital version of the doctoral thesis is a public document and it will be available free from University of Canterbury Library. Since your information remains unidentifiable, your contribution cannot be identified. The information you give will be stored for the coming 10 years.

If you have any questions, you can contact me Fazeela Mohamed and my supervisory team Arindam Basu and Wendy Maddocks from the below addresses and contact numbers. We will be happy to discuss any concerns you might have about participating in the study.

**Fazeela Mohamed**

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This study has been reviewed and approved by the University of Canterbury Human Ethics Committee, and all participants should address any complaints to The Chair, Human Ethics Committee, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch ([human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:human-ethics@canterbury.ac.nz)).

If you decide to participate in this study, share your contact details with me (Fazeela Mohamed), so I can contact you for this study. I can contact you by phone to arrange a convenient time for you for the interview.