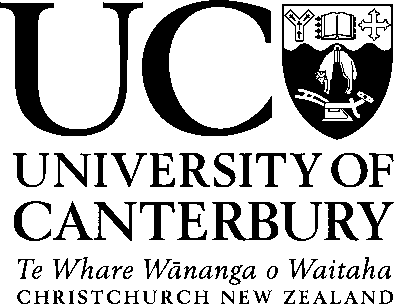
## Information Sheet



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Date: **10 February 2020**

HEC Ref:

# Project title: Access to primary healthcare and ambulatory care sensitive hospitalisations.

My name is Fazeela Mohamed. I am a doctoral candidate at the University of Canterbury-School of Health Sciences. I’d like to provide you information about my research on how patients access primary healthcare services in the Maldives.

We know from earlier research that effective primary healthcare reduces hospitalisation among patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and chronic heart failure. We know Maldives continues to provide primary healthcare services including:

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

But we are concerned with the higher rates of hospitalisation for these conditions. There is a concern that poor primary healthcare access may be linked to hospitalisation. Therefore, I would like to study the link between transportation, travel time, and trust in provider and access to primary healthcare services. I invite you to participate in my study as you belong to one of the regions I am interested in my research; and you are diagnosed with one or more of the following conditions that I am studying:

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

If you choose to take part in this study:

* Researcher will contact you over phone to arrange a time of interview
* The interview will be in-person in a suitable public place
* The interview will take about 30 minutes of your time
* Standardized precautions will be taken to ensure your safety during interview. For this:
  + Prior to the interview, the researcher will have a telephone conversation with you. You will be asked if you are unwell, travelled overseas recently, or been in contact with anyone that is suspected to have, or has had Covid-19
  + At the time interview, you and the interviewer will be expected to maintain a distance of one meter (about three feet)
  + Interviewer will wear face mask at all times during interview
  + Face mask and hand sanitizer will be provided for you by the researcher
* We will store your information securely in an electronic format, and we will make sure that your identity is not revealed to anyone and all information you share with us will remain confidential
* We will use all information you provide only for the purpose of this research

We do not foresee any risk on your part if you choose to answer the questionnaire. However, should you will become concerned about your condition, we recommend that you discuss this with your primary provider.

Participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw before commencement of the interview and during the interview. If you withdraw during the interview, I will remove the information relating to you. Once the interview is complete and entered to the system it will remain anonymous. Therefore, we will be unable to locate your specific information and delete it. .

The results will be published as a doctoral thesis. The electronic version of the thesis is a public document and will be available free of cost through University of Canterbury Library. As your information is collected anonymous your contribution will not be identified. The information you provide will be stored for next 10 years.

If you have any questions, you can contact me Fazeela Mohamed and my supervisory team Arindam Basu and Wendy Maddocks by the following addresses and contact numbers. We will be pleased to discuss any concerns you may have about participation in the project.

**Fazeela Mohamed**

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This project has been reviewed and approved by the University of Canterbury Human Ethics Committee, and 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 agree to participate in this study, please share your contact details with me (Fazeela Mohamed), so I can reach you for this study. I can contact you over phone to arrange a time of interview at your convenience.