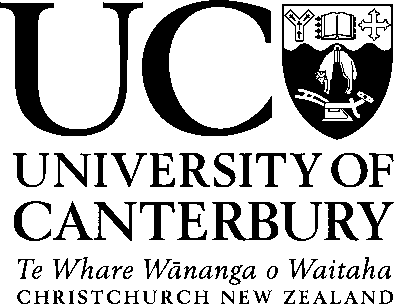
## Information Sheet



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Date:

HEC Ref:

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

My name is Fazeela Mohamed. I am a doctoral student from the University of Canterbury. I am collecting information about how patients access to primary healthcare services in the Maldives.

Previous research has shown that primary healthcare interventions are effective in reducing hospitalisation among patients with high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and chronic heart failure. Though Maldives continue to provide these interventions, it remains to be explained relatively higher rates of hospitalisation for these diseases. It is argued that higher rates of hospitalisation for these diseases indicate lack of primary healthcare access. Therefore, the purpose of my research is to study the association between transportation, travel time, and trust in provider and access to primary healthcare services. Then, assess the association between access to primary healthcare services and risk of hospitalisation for high blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and chronic heart failure.

You have been approached to take part in this study because you belong to one of the regions I am interested to study in my research; and is diagnosed with one or more of the diseases that I am studying. These diseases include hypertension, chronic heart failure, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes. Ministry of Health has located your contact details through hospital database.

If you choose to take part in this study, your involvement in this project will be answering my questionnaire to gather information for this research. The information you provide will be entered to the computer. It is important for the researcher that the most accurate information is obtained. This is will take 25 to 30 minutes of your time.

There are no known risks associated in answering the questionnaire. Your answers will be kept securely. Any information that could identify you will not be linked to your answers anyway. The information gathered via the questionnaire will only be used for the above research purpose.

Participation is voluntary and you have the right to withdraw at interview stage. There is no penalty involved in withdrawing. You may ask for your raw data to be returned to you or destroyed at interview stage. If you withdraw, I will remove information relating to you at interview stage. However, once your information is entered to the system it will remain anonymous. I will be unable to locate your specific information and therefore cannot delete it. It will become increasingly difficult to remove the influence of your data on the results.

The results of the project will be published in the form of a thesis. A thesis is a public document and will be available through University of Canterbury Library. However, your identity will not be made public. You will be given a study code. This study code will not be linked to your name or contact details. Any information given by you will be entered under this study code. Therefore, the information given by you will remain anonymous, once the data is entered in the system. This data will only be accessible to researcher and supervisors. The data will be password protected. It will be stored in cloud storage services via university server. To prevent accidental loss, back-up data will be stored on transportable media such as flash memory and external hard drives. This will be stored securely in separate lockable cabinets given for individual PhD students. The data will be stored for next 10 years.

The project is being carried out as a requirement for doctor of philosophy in health sciences by Fazeela Mohamed under the supervision of Arindam Basu and Wendy Maddocks, who can be contacted at:

**Fazeela Mohamed**

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Fazeela Mohamed, Arindam Basu, and Wendy Maddocks will be pleased to discuss any concerns you may have about participation in the project.

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 provide your contact details to public health division of the island you are resided in. I will collect this information from Ministry of Health and will be in touch with you thereafter.