1 Participant Information

You are being invited to participate in a research study titled "To deceit or self-deceit, that is the question!". This study is being done by Marina Mădăraș from the TU Delft.

The purpose of this research study is to explore how people interact with a chatbot designed for a diabetes support context, and how that interaction makes them feel. It will take you approximately 30 minutes to complete. The data will be used for analysis in a Bachelor's thesis, which will be published in the TU Delft repository. Only anonymized results will be included. You will be asked to interact with a chatbot in a conversation based on a typical diabetes-related use case.. Afterwards, you will complete a questionnaire to reflect on how you felt following the interaction.

As with any online activity the risk of a breach is always possible. To the best of our ability your answers in this study will remain confidential. We will minimize risks by not collecting any personally identifiable information during the chatbot interaction, and by anonymizing all responses before analysis. This means removing any possible indirect identifiers and ensuring that questionnaire responses cannot be linked back to individual participants. The questionnaire will be completed on the researcher's computer, and all research data will be stored securely on the TU Delft OneDrive, separate from the informed consent forms.

The chatbot uses an external large language model (LLM) to manage the conversation and generate responses. While your inputs will be partially processed by this external system, you will not be asked to share any personal or identifying information. The interaction is designed to remain anonymous, and no personally identifiable information will be collected or stored.

Please note that the chatbot may generate responses that sound like diabetes-related advice. These responses are part of a research prototype and are not intended to be taken as real medical guidance or acted upon.

Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. Some questions may ask about your feelings, but you are free to skip any question you do not feel comfortable answering. Once submitted, it will not be possible to withdraw questionnaire responses, as the data is fully anonymized and cannot be linked back to you.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the study further, you can contact the responsible researcher, Marina Mădăraș, at m.madaras@student.tudelft.nl.

2 Informed Consent Form

By ticking the boxes below, you indicate that you understand and agree with each statement.   Yes   No

General Agreement

- I have read and understood the study information dated [DD]/06/2025, or it has been read to me.

- I have been able to ask questions about the study and my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.

- I consent voluntarily to be a participant in this study and understand that I can refuse to answer questions and I can withdraw from the study at any time, without having to give a reason.

- I understand that taking part in this study involves interacting with a chatbot and completing a questionnaire that includes questions about my thoughts and feelings.

- I understand that my answers to the questionnaire will remain anonymous, and this will also be ensured during data processing. No personally identifiable information (PII) will be collected or documented, other than what is included in this consent form, which is not linked to my questionnaire responses.

- I understand that my participation in the study will end after I complete the chatbot interaction and the questionnaire. The study as a whole is expected to conclude by mid-June 2025.

Potential Risks of Participating

- I understand that taking part in the study may involve mild emotional discomfort from answering questions about feelings, and a potential sense of obligation due to being recruited through the researcher's network. These risks are minimized by the voluntary nature of participation, the option to skip questions, and the ability to withdraw at any time.

- I understand that the chatbot may produce responses that sound like diabetes-related advice, but these are part of a research prototype and are not intended to be taken as real medical guidance or acted upon.

- I understand that the chatbot is powered by an external large language model (LLM), and that the inputs I provide during the interaction may be processed by this external system.

- I understand that the risk of re-identification is low, as no personal data is collected during the chatbot interaction or in the questionnaire. Consent forms are stored separately from research data, are not linked to responses, and are not shared beyond the researcher.

- I understand that steps will be taken to minimise the risk of a data breach, including anonymising responses before analysis and securely storing data in a private TU Delft OneDrive account, with access limited to the researcher.

Research Publication, Dissemination and Application

- I understand that after the research study, the de-identified information I provide will be used for a Bachelor's thesis, which will be published in the TU Delft repository.

(Longterm) Data Storage, Access and Reuse

- I give permission for my name and signature to be securely stored in a private TU Delft OneDrive account, solely for the purpose of documenting informed consent and not for any other purpose.

- I give permission for the answers I provide during the study to be securely stored in a private TU Delft OneDrive account, solely for the purpose of analysis within this research study. The data will not be used for any purpose beyond this Bachelor's thesis.

Signatures

Name of participant   **Signature**   **Date**

I have accurately read out the information sheet to the potential participant and, to the best of my ability, ensured that the participant understands to what they are freely consenting.

Researcher name   **Signature**   **Date**