

## **Participant Information Sheet 1.0 ERGO/FoPSE/8175**

**Study Title:** LifeGuide – Randomised Control Trial Allocation

**Researchers:** Liam de Valmency, Aleksandar Botev, Dionisio Perez-Mavrogenis, Kim Svensson

**Ethics number:** 8175

**Please read this information carefully before deciding to take part in this research. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.**

### **What is the study about?**

We are a group of MEng Computer Science students who, as part of our final year studies, are currently developing several improvements for LifeGuide, an application which facilitates the easy setup of randomised control trials for research purposes. Currently, LifeGuide requires the user to write logic files to determine how the trial is organised and how participants are allocated into the various arms of the study. We aim to remove the need to hand-code the allocation logic, providing a more convenient way of specifying how participants in the study will be assigned into groups.

### **Why have I been chosen?**

You have been chosen as you are a user, or potential user, of the LifeGuide system.

### **What will happen to me if I take part?**

The study will last approximately half an hour. You will be asked to read a help sheet which outlines how to specify the setting up of a trial with our system. You will then be asked to read several trial descriptions, and for each, hand-write the specification which would input that trial into our system.

On finishing the tasks, you will be asked to fill out a short questionnaire to provide some feedback on your experience with completing the tasks. This will be returned to any of the researchers present.

### **Are there any benefits in my taking part?**

Your participation in this study will allow us to better evaluate the needs of potential LifeGuide users, and as a result we can provide more intuitive and useful system upgrades.

### **Are there any risks involved?**

No risks are involved in the study.

### **Will my participation be confidential?**

Participation will be fully confidential. Our study complies with the Data Protection Act, as well as the University of Southampton's policies on confidentiality and data use. All gathered data will be stored securely on password-protected servers provided by the University. Any data you provide as part of the study will not be linked to your identity beyond the completion of a consent form. Full

anonymity cannot be ensured due to the nature of this section of our research (i.e. face-to-face contact).

**What happens if I change my mind?**

If you wish to opt out of the study at any time, you may do so. Simply notify any of the researchers present; your withdrawal from the study does not affect your legal rights.

**What happens if something goes wrong?**

If you have any concerns or complaints about the study or its organisation, please contact Professor Rosalind Edwards, (023) 8059 5857, [R.S.Edwards@soton.ac.uk](mailto:R.S.Edwards@soton.ac.uk), giving the ethics number at the top of this document.

**Where can I get more information?**

If you wish to know more about the study, or have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact any of the group members using the email addresses below:

Liam de Valmency - [lpdv1g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk](mailto:lpdv1g10@ecs.soton.ac.uk)

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