Adherence Perception Project - Letter of Information for Implied Consent

Dear Participant:

Thank you for your interest in this very brief, anonymous, online study, entitled the *Adherence Perception Project!* Before we begin, we want to ensure that you understand the nature of this research.

This study is being conducted by:

- Simon Diemert is a graduate student in the department of Computer Science at the University of Victoria.
- Dr. Morgan Price is a family doctor and assistant professor in the Division of Medical Sciences.
- Dr Banman is a family medicine resident in Victoria, BC.
- Dr. Jens Weber is a professor of software engineering in the department of Computer Science.

If you have any further questions or concerns you may contact Simon Diemert via email at sdiemert@uvic.ca.

As a graduate student, I am required to conduct research as part of the requirements for a degree in Master of Science – Computer Science. This research is being conducted under the supervision of Morgan Price. You may contact my supervisor via email at: morgan@leadlab.ca.

This research has been supported by an NSERC – Canadian Graduate Masters Scholarship.

Research Purpose:
The purpose of this research project is to better understand Canadian health care providers, specifically physicians, perceptions of medication adherence; i.e. what do providers think adherent medication taking behavior looks like for their patients. Currently, it is unclear whether physicians (as a community) have a consensus on what adherent medication behavior entails. The results from this study may: 1) inform future similar studies; 2) augment advanced models of medication adherence for HIT systems; 3) provide evidence to direct future research and education efforts in the area of medication adherence.

Importance of Research:
Medication adherence is a global problem of "striking magnitude" (World Health Organization), it is known that patients may not take medications as prescribed, this often results in exacerbation of existing conditions and increased frequency of hospital visits. Medication adherence has been extensively studied for the last 40 years; recent research suggests the problem is multifaceted and extremely complex. Health care provider perception of adherence is unclear and we do not know what level of agreement there is between health care providers on the definition of adherence.

Participant Selection:
You have been selected to participate in this research because you are:

1) a practicing physician or resident physician (medical doctor);
2) registered to practice in a jurisdiction within Canada;
3) at least 19 years of age.
4) Able to prescribe medications to patients.

What is Involved:
If you consent to voluntarily participate in this research, your participation will include:

1. Accessing a web application and consenting to participate in the research (reviewing this letter).
2. Completing a short tutorial on the use of the study web application.
3. Answering 5 – 10 medication adherence questions based on hypothetical patient scenarios.
4. Answering 15 (or fewer) survey style questions.

Your participation in the research will take between 5 and 15 minutes of you time. It may be completed from anywhere in which you have Internet access.

Inconvenience:
Participation in this study may cause some inconvenience to you, including: use of personal time to complete the study.

Risks:
There are no known or anticipated risks to you by participating in this voluntary, anonymous research/study.

Benefits:
The results of this research may inform future work in the medical sciences in the area of medication adherence. This will improve the state knowledge regarding physician perception of adherence and potentially support future medication adherence initiatives.

Upon completion of the study, you will have the *option* of entering your email address into a draw for the chance to win a $100.00 gift certificate BestBuy.

Voluntary Participation:
Your participation in this research must be completely voluntary. If you do decide participate, you may withdraw at any time by not pressing submit without consequences. If you withdraw from the study, any data you have already provided may still be used as your responses are anonymous and not tracked.

Researcher's Relationship with Participants:
The researchers may have a teacher/student relationship to potential participants. To help prevent this relationship from influencing your decision to participate, the following steps to prevent coercion have been taken:

- All study data will be anonymous, no personal or identifying information will be collected.
- If you provide an email address for the draw it will not be associated with any collected data.
- In all results from the research you will be identified by a unique alpha-numerical code.

Anonymity
In terms of protecting your anonymity, the research team will:

- Your results will only be identified by a unique alpha-numeric code. We will not be able to match the code to any persons.

Confidentiality:
Your confidentiality and the confidentiality of the data will be protected by:

- Storing digital data/results within a physically secure location on an encrypted storage device.

Dissemination of Results:
It is anticipated that the results of this research/study will be shared with others in the following ways:

- Published articles, chapters, posters, or books.
- Presentation at scholarly meetings.
- Thesis/dissertation/class reports or presentations (including public access via UVic library).

Future Use of Data:
The data collected in this research/study may be used for future studies and/or data analysis by other researchers. In all cases of future use, only anonymized data will be provided.

Disposal of Data:
Data from this study will be disposed of after 5 years from the end of the study; all data will be deleted/erased.

Contacts:
Individuals that may be contacted regarding this study include:

- Primary Contact - Simon Diemert via email at: sdiemert@uvic.ca
- Supervisory Contact – Morgan Price via email at: morgan@leadlab.ca

In addition, you may verify the ethical approval of this study, or raise any concerns you might have, by contacting the Human Research Ethics Office at the University of Victoria (250-472-4545 or ethics@uvic.ca).

By completing and submitting the study questionnaire and survey, YOUR FREE AND INFORMED CONSENT IS IMPLIED and indicates that you understand the above conditions of participation in this study and that you have had the opportunity to have your questions answered by the researchers.

Please retain a copy of this letter for your reference.

Best Regards,

Simon Diemert, EIT