***David Bowie****,*

*Intensive Care Specialist,*

*Clinical Director, Air Retrieval Service*

*MBChB, FANZCA, FCICM*

[*David.Bowie@cdhb.health.nz*](mailto:David.Bowie@cdhb.health.nz)

***George Downward****,*

*Intensive Care Specialist,*

*Clinical Director of Patient Safety*

*MBChB, FANZCA, FCICM*

[*George.Downward@cdhb.health.nz*](mailto:George.Downward@cdhb.health.nz)

***Alastair Gibson****,*

*Intensive Care Specialist,*

*MBChB, FANZCA, FCICM*

[*Alastair.Gibson@cdhb.health.nz*](mailto:Alastair.Gibson@cdhb.health.nz)

***David Knight****,*

*Intensive Care Specialist,*

*MBChB, MRCP, FRCA, DICM, FCICM*

[*David.Knight@cdhb.health.nz*](mailto:David.Knight@cdhb.health.nz)

***Seton Henderson****,*

*Intensive Care Specialist,*

*Clinical Director of Intensive Care*

*MBChB, FRACP, FCICM*

[*Seton.Henderson@cdhb.health.nz*](mailto:Seton.Henderson@cdhb.health.nz)

***Louise Hitchings****,*

*Intensive Care Specialist,*

*MBChB, FRACP, FCICM*

[*Lousie.Hitchings @cdhb.health.nz*](mailto:Seton.Henderson@cdhb.govt.nz)

***Geoffrey Shaw****,*

*Intensive Care Specialist,*

*MBChB, FANZCA, FCICM Hon FIPENZ*

[*Geoff.Shaw@cdhb.health.nz*](mailto:Geoff.Shaw@cdhb.health.nz)

Department of Intensive Care, Christchurch Hospital, Private Bag 4710, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand Tel: +64 3 364 0640, Fax: +64 3 364 0099



Day Month Year

Patients

Address

Dear Mr/ Ms \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

During your recent stay at Christchurch ICU you were being mechanically ventilated and participated in a randomised controlled trial study to help doctors to choose the safest ventilator settings for ventilated patients in ICU. This study was called “*Optimising PEEP in mechanically ventilated patients*”.

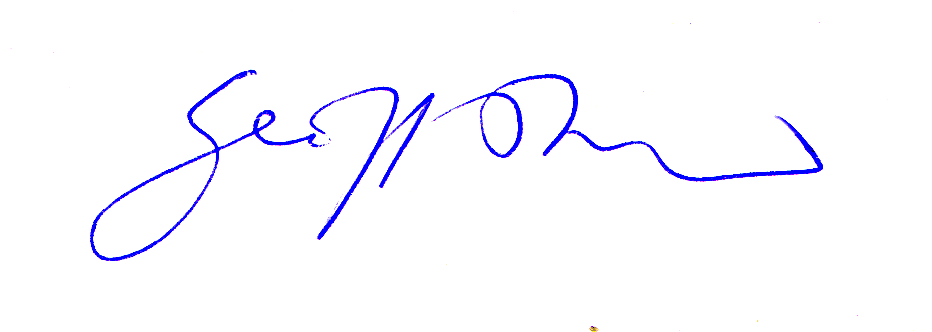
We have discussed this study with Family members name and He/ she felt that you would be happy to participate if we had been able to talk with you at the time. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet with you before you were discharged from Christchurch Hospital. We would like to confirm you are happy to have taken part and also agree to some your clinical data being used in scientific publications. All information collected has been kept secure and confidential.

The purpose of this study is to test a new way of finding out the best ventilator setting to reduce lung stiffness. There are no exact rules on how to select the optimum setting for the ventilator. Thus, the ICU doctor’s best guess is usually based on their “gut feeling”, or clinical experience, and may not always be best for the patient. Therefore, in this study, we used computer models to select the best positive end expiratory pressure (PEEP), so that more lung units can be recruited. To help doctors decide the best settings, the PEEP will be changed upwards and then downwards. For each changes, the lung responses will be recorded. A computer will work out the best PEEP based on the recorded responses. The doctor can then choose whether to use this PEEP setting if they think this might help. By having a computer to help ICU doctors make decisions about ventilation, we can ensure mechanical ventilation is better matched to each patient.

A full information sheet detailing this research study is attached to this letter. We would much appreciate your consideration of being part of this study. If you are comfortable being a part of this study, would you please sign and date the very last section of consent form under “*If applicable at a later stage”*.

We would very much appreciate it if you would return this form in the envelope provided. We hope you are well on your road to recovery and are enjoying being back at home. Thank you very much for your help.

Yours sincerely,



*Electronic signature*

Geoffrey M Shaw

*Intensive Care Specialist*

*Associate Professor, Department of Anaesthesia, University of Otago, Christchurch*

*Adjunct Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Canterbury*