Informed Consent Document: Usability Study for Steady Sobriety Application

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Title of Project: Usability Study of Steady Sobriety Application
Sponsor: None

Informed Consent to Participate in a Research Study

We are inviting you to take part in a research study. This form will tell you about the study, but the researcher will explain it to you first. You may ask this person any questions that you have. When you are ready to make a decision, you may tell the researcher if you want to participate or not. You do not have to participate if you do not want to. If you decide to participate, the researcher will ask for your informed consent and will give you a copy to keep.

Key Information

- Your consent is being sought for participation in a research project and your participation is voluntary.
- The purpose of the research is to learn about the user experience and identify usability issues with a web application.
- The anticipated amount of time that your participation will take will be around 20-30 minutes.
- The procedures that you will be asked to complete will be:
    - Join a Zoom interview with microphone and camera on and screen shared
    - Visit the web application
    - Perform certain tasks with the web application
    - Answer questions regarding experience in the previous steps
- The foreseeable risks to the subject: None.
- The potential benefits to the subject: None.

Why am I being asked to take part in this research study?

You are invited to participate in this usability study because you are a potential user for the web application Steady Sobriety, which aims to help people quit drinking problems.

Why is this research study being done?

The purpose of this study is to learn about the user experience and identify usability issues with the Steady Sobriety web application, so that we can make continuous improvements on it.

What will I be asked to do?

If you decide to take part in this study, we will ask you to participate in a usability study interview. You will need a working computer device and reliable internet connection for the interview. During the interview, we will first obtain your informed consent. Then you will be asked to visit the Steady Sobriety web application and perform certain tasks with it. Finally, you will be asked a series of questions regarding your experience with the web application. During the interview, you need to keep your microphone and camera on and share your screen. Your voice, facial expressions and computer screen will be recorded for study purposes.

Where will this take place and how much of my time will it take?
You will be interviewed via a Zoom meeting. You can participate at a time and place that is convenient for you. The interview will take about 20 to 30 minutes.

Will there be any risk or discomfort to me?
There are no foreseeable legal, financial, social, psychological, physical, etc. risks or discomforts.

Will I benefit by being in this research?
There will be no direct benefit to you for taking part in the study. However, the information learned from this study may help us make Steady Sobriety a more effective and usable web application, which can in turn better help individuals with drinking problems manage their issues.

Who will see the information about me?
Your identity as a participant in this study will not be known. That means no one, not even the researchers, will know that the answers you give are from you.

You will remain completely anonymous throughout the life cycle of this study. No other individuals and/or organizations will have access to the study recordings except for the study team.

Your de-identified information and/or biospecimens could be used for future research without additional informed consent.

If I do not want to take part in the study, what choices do I have?
You can choose to not participate in this study.

What will happen if I suffer any harm from this research?
If research-related injury (i.e. physical, psychological, social, financial or otherwise) is possible in research, provide an explanation of whatever compensation or treatment will be provided. If physical injury is possible, explain whether any medical treatment is available, what it consists of, and where further information may be obtained.

When appropriate, you may use wording such as, No special arrangements will be made for compensation or for payment for treatment solely because of my participation in this research.

Can I stop my participation in this study?
Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You do not have to participate if you do not want to and you can refuse to answer any question. Even if you begin the study, you may quit at any time. If you do not participate or if you decide to quit, you will not lose any rights, benefits, or services that you would otherwise have (as a student, employee, etc).

Who can I contact if I have questions or problems?
If you have any questions about this study, please feel free to contact Yuqi Hu (hu.yuqi@northeastern.edu) or Zhiqian Zhang (zhang.zhiq@northeastern.edu), the people mainly responsible for the research.

Who can I contact about my rights as a participant?
If you have any questions about your rights in this research, you may contact the Human Subject Research Protection, Mail Stop: 560-177, 360 Huntington Avenue, Northeastern University, Boston, MA 02115. Tel: 773-396-2327, Email: IRBReview@northeastern.edu You may call anonymously if you wish.

Will I be paid for my participation?
There will not be any material compensation for participation in this study.

Will it cost me anything to participate?
There will not be any cost related to participation in this study.

Is there anything else I need to know?
Not specifically. Remember you can ask the researchers any questions you may have,

This study has been reviewed and approved by the Northeastern University Institutional Review Board.

Obtaining Informed Consent
When prompted at the beginning of the interview, you can state that "I agree to take part in this study" to indicate that we have obtained your informed consent.