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## ***MONITORING USE OF MYWHIPLASH NAVIGATOR FOR PEOPLE WITH WHIPLASH***

### **PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT**

#### **(1) What is this study about?**

You are invited to take part in a research study about **using the website *My Whiplash Navigator*** ([www.mywhiplash.com.au](http://www.mywhiplash.com.au)). My Whiplash Navigator has been developed by clinical and research experts in whiplash and information in it is based on the best available evidence. **The study aims to determine how people use My Whiplash Navigator during their recovery, and whether it is useful or not.**

You have been invited to participate in this study because you have accessed the website and then indicated you would be interested in this study. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

By giving your consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read.
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Statement to keep.

#### **(2) Who is running the study?**

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Associate Professor Trudy Rebbeck, Dr Andrew Leaver, Prof Ian Cameron, Dr Christopher Paptic, Ms Alex Griffin; Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney
- Professor Michele Sterling, Dr Carrie Ritchie, Ms Sarah Robins; The University of Queensland

- Dr Aila Bandong; College of Allied Medical Professions, The University of the Philippines

This study is being funded by the State Insurance Regulatory Authority of New South Wales and the Motor Accident Insurance Commission of Queensland, Australia.

### **(3) What will the study involve for me?**

After reading this and providing consent, you will be asked to register on the website, and provide some minimal information such as date of injury, age, gender and email address. You will then complete an initial online survey ('Assessment questionnaire for Patients'). This initial survey has 16 items that ask about your current health and your age and gender. If you have a primary Health Care Professional (HCP) already involved in your care, you can email the results of the survey to them by adding their email on the website. (Please note; some primary HCP's may prefer not to receive information via email, hence please check with them). (Completing the survey means additional resources in the website will be tailored to your recovery. You can then continue to use the resources on the website as needed. Your primary HCP can help in tailoring resources for you. In 3 months' time, we will email you a questionnaire which asks your opinions of the website and whether or not this assisted in your recovery (Follow up questionnaire).

### **(4) How much of my time will the study take?**

The surveys will take 10 minutes to complete each time.

### **(5) Who can take part in the study?**

People with whiplash following a motor vehicle accident can take part in this study. Participants must be over 18 years of age, registered on the My Whiplash Navigator website, and have provided consent to participate via the online participant consent form located on the website.

### **(6) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?**

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney, The University of Queensland, the New South Wales State Insurance Regulatory Authority and the Motor Accident Insurance Commission of Queensland.

If you decide to take part in the study and then change your mind later, you are free to withdraw at any time. You can do this by phoning or emailing the investigators listed on this form.

Submitting your online consent form and online survey (Whiplash Assessment 1) is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw your responses any time before you have submitted the questionnaire. Once you have submitted it, you will need to email the researchers to request to withdraw from the study.

### **(7) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?**

Aside from giving up your time, we do not expect that there will be any risks or costs associated with taking part in this study. Whilst we cannot guarantee zero-risk cyber security, My Whiplash Navigator is a very secure platform, has been developed by experienced health website developers and has passed The University of Sydney cybersecurity checks, complying with National Cyber Security laws and the University of Sydney Cyber Security Policy 2019. To provide further security, health information provided by you (by answering the questionnaires) on this platform will be downloaded by the researchers regularly, de-identified and then stored on secure University data stores.

**(8) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?**

We cannot guarantee that you will receive any direct benefits from being in the study. However, the information can be trusted and is based on research, so you can be confident it is accurate and may help your recovery. Further, the information you provide will help in future development or changes to the website.

**(9) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?**

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting health information about you (as per the online questionnaires) for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise.

Your information will be downloaded by the researchers from the website then stored securely on a University of Sydney or Queensland secure server. Your identity/information will be kept strictly confidential, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

We will keep the information we collect for this study, and we may use it in future projects. By providing your consent you are allowing us to use your information in future projects. We don't know at this stage what these other projects will involve. We will seek ethical approval before using the information in these future projects.

**(10) Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

**(11) What if I would like further information about the study?**

When you have read this information, [insert researcher name] will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact [researcher name] by email [researcher email].

**(12) Will I be told the results of the study?**

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback by ticking the relevant box on the consent form, or answering the relevant question in the online questionnaire. This feedback will be in the form of a one-page summary. You will receive this feedback after the study is finished.

**(13) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?**

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney [INSERT protocol number]. As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** [human.ethics@sydney.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics@sydney.edu.au)
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

*This information sheet is for you to keep*