



MSHC
MELBOURNE SEXUAL HEALTH CENTRE
Part of AlfredHealth



MONASH
University

Participant Information Sheet

Non-Interventional Study - Adult providing own consent

Title:	What is it – Study
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator:	Professor Christopher Fairley
Associate Investigators	Dr Eric Chow, Dr Sandy Walker, Dr Ian Denham, Dr Janet Towns, A/Prof Ann Nicholson, Dr Owen Woodberry
Location:	Melbourne Sexual Health Centre The Alfred Health

Part 1 What does my participation involve?

Introduction

You are invited to answer some extra questions on the computer today to help us work out if it is possible to develop a program to assist people make their own diagnosis of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) using questions and photographs.

This form tells you about the research project and what is involved.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage by contacting us on the number below. Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your routine treatment, or your relationship with those treating you. The clinician you see will not know if you have participated or not and will not have access to your answers.

If you decide you want to take part in the research project, just complete the extra questions. If you don't wish to, simply push the 'no- prefer to stop' button. At any time during the program you can exit it. Please keep this Participant Information sheet.

What is the purpose of this research?

To help us determine if it is possible to develop a program that allows individuals to self-diagnose their possible STI using a computer program.

What does participation in this research involve?

If you participate in the project, just continue with the questions until the program stops. There will be no change in your treatment and your position will not be changed in the queue. Complete a questionnaire of up to about 20 questions.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

There will be no clear benefit to you personally from your participation in this research. There may be a benefit to you and others in the future if we are able develop this program.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?

The questions on the computer may cause distress. Please let us know if they do and we will arrange help. You will see a clinician after the computer questions who can assist you.

What if I withdraw from this research project?

If you decide to withdraw from this research project, just exit the questionnaire wherever you would like. If you would like to exit the research project after completing the questionnaire please notify a member of the research team by phone below.

What happens when the research project ends?

A summary of the results will be available at this site in about 12 months.

<http://mshc.org.au/research/ParticipantsSummaries/tabid/245/Default.aspx>

Part 2 How is the research project being conducted?

What will happen to information about me?

Your information will only be used for the purpose of this research project and it will only be disclosed with your permission, or in compliance with the law. In accordance with relevant Australian and/or Victorian privacy and other relevant laws, you have the right to request access to the information collected and stored by the research team about you. You also have the right to request that any information with which you disagree be corrected. Please contact the research team member named at the end of this document if you would like to access your information.

Your information will be coded and your name will not be attached to any information you supply. Any information you supply will be held in a locked password protected database that will only be viewed by researchers and not be linked to your clinical record.

Who is organising and funding the research?

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre through the research grants from the National Health and Medical Research Council and Monash University.

Who has reviewed the research project?

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the HRECs of Alfred. This project will be carried out according to the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)*. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

Further information and who to contact

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query.

If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any psychological problems which may be related to your involvement in the project (for example, psychological distress), you can contact:

Name	Professor Christopher Fairley
Position	Principal Researcher, Director, Melbourne Sexual Health Centre
Telephone	(03) 9341 6241
Email	cfairley@mshc.org.au

Complaints contact person

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, then you may contact:

Name	Ms Emily Bingle
Position	Research Governance Officer, Office of Ethics & Research Governance, The Alfred
Telephone	(03) 9076 3619
Email	research@alfred.org.au