**PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET**

**Title of Study:**

**AWDISP Healthcare Professionals Survey: Asking Women with Diabetes about Sexual Problems**

**University of Surrey Ref:** **FHMS 21-22 245 EGA**

**INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUR RECORDS**

**Section: Taking Part**

**Invitation Paragraph**

We would like to invite you to participate in this University of Surrey research project.

The principal researcher is an NHS GP, Dr Joanna Murphy MRCGP, and this study forms part of her PhD research.

You should only participate if you want to; choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way.

Before you decide whether you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what your participation will involve. If you have any questions, you can contact us using the contact details at the end of this information sheet.

**What is the purpose of the study?**

This study gathers current data from UK healthcare professionals who work with women with a diagnosis of diabetes.

Recent research shows women with diabetes are at high risk of female sexual dysfunction, but they often do not disclose symptoms to professionals, and professionals may not proactively ask about them.

The survey will ask about professionals' demographic background, experience, unmet needs, and expectations of asking women with diabetes questions about sexual problems. We ask professionals to consider whether a screening tool for female sexual dysfunction might be useful and acceptable to patients.

The survey also asks for professionals' suggestions for improving care for women with diabetes at high risk of female sexual dysfunction.

We will undertake further research with professionals and patients, guided by the findings of this study.

**Who is responsible for this study?**

This study is the responsibility of Dr Joanna Murphy at the University of Surrey and involves a team at the Universities of Surrey and Kings College London

**Why have I been invited to take part?**

You are invited to participate in this study because you are an:

Healthcare professional or healthcare assistant, currently working in NHS practice in Primary Care (or who has worked in NHS practice in the last 2 years and is currently registered/ eligible to work in NHS practice)

Or

Healthcare professional or healthcare assistant, currently working in NHS practice in Secondary Care (or who has worked in NHS practice in the last 2 years and is currently registered/ eligible to work in NHS practice)

We invite you to participate only if you judge you are likely to provide care for at least one woman with diabetes on a normal working week. The woman need not be seeing you about diabetes. If your role never involves meeting women with diabetes, you are not eligible to participate.

- We are not asking undergraduate students to participate unless they are also working as a healthcare assistant.

- If unsure, please email the research team on [j.c.murphy@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.murphy@surrey.ac.uk) prior to participating.

We have advertised this study through professional and academic networks and professional forums, and through Diabetes UK

**Do I have to take part?**

Participation is voluntary and you do not have to take part.

We will describe the study in this information sheet. You can read this information sheet for as long as you wish before deciding whether you wish to take part, so long as the survey is completed by 01.03.2023

Please contact us if there is anything that is not clear, or if you have any questions, or need more information.

**What will happen to me if I decide to take part?**

If you decide to take part, you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form to confirm your agreement to participate. This will be done online via an anonymous online link. You will be able to download and keep a copy of this information sheet and consent form.

The survey takes about 20 minutes to complete online.

If you temporarily need to leave the survey before finishing it, you can restart where you left off by using the same link on the same device. If you use a different device, the survey will restart.

The survey is totally anonymous.

You are free to answer any question or not answer any question, or to end the questionnaire completion at any stage.

**What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?**

You are free to decide not to take part, or to withdraw from the study at any time until you complete the questionnaire by pressing the “finish” button, without giving a reason.

**What happens to my data if I want to withdraw?**

If you wish to remove or change your survey answers, you may do this any time till you press the “finish” button on the questionnaire.

No answers will be seen or used by the research team until you press the “finish” button.

You may choose not to answer any single question or all questions.

If you begin the survey but wish to withdraw before finishing, please do not press the “finish” button. No data from your questionnaire answers will be used or visible to researchers unless you finish the whole survey by pressing “finish” button.

Incomplete data will be deleted on 2nd March, 2023

If you finish the questionnaire and press the “finish” button, data from your answers will be visible to researchers, anonymised and pooled. You will not be able to withdraw your data once the survey is finished.

At the end of the survey, we will ask whether you wish to provide the research team with your email address, to be invited to participate in future studies, if relevant.

If you chose to provide your email address, you will do this using a separate link. Your email address will not be linked to your survey answers, which will remain anonymous.

Your email will be kept until the completion of all the series of studies in the postgraduate project (a maximum of seven years) and will be used only to invite you to participate in future research on similar topics, if relevant.

Your email address will not be used for other reasons nor distributed to people outside the research team. We will delete your email address immediately if you email j.c.murphy@surrey.ac.uk

**What are the possible benefits in taking part?**

There are no direct benefits to you from taking part. However, if data generally suggests unmet needs for healthcare professionals, the research team will feed these back to appropriate organisations to support colleagues and their patients. Depending on findings, the researchers will communicate the data from the study at conferences, in professional journals, via voluntary agencies such as Diabetes UK, to organisations providing training such as medical schools and universities, and others as needed.

**Are there any potential risks involved?**

A possible disadvantage to taking part in the study is time to complete the study. Sexual dysfunction can also be upsetting to discuss.

Please only participate if comfortable to do so. If support is needed for distress caused by the issues raised in the study, please see the support section below.

**How is the project being funded?**

This research is funded as a postgraduate research project with The University of Surrey

**Will my participation be kept confidential?**

We are responsible for making sure your participation is kept confidential and any data is kept secure and used only in the way described in this information sheet.

Your information may be reviewed for monitoring and audit purposes, by the University of Surrey and/or regulators who will treat your data in confidence.

Your participation is totally anonymous, and you will not be identifiable from your survey entry in any publication or report. If you mention any potentially identifiable data, we will anonymise it in any report or publication.

**Will my data be shared or used in future research studies?**

We would like your permission to share the anonymised data you provide us, publicly, in professional journals, reports and presentations.

The data will also be used as part of a PhD thesis.

Your email address, if supplied, will only be used for the purpose of inviting you to participate in future research and will not be shared, linked to your survey answers or pilot study answers, nor used in any other way

We will not share your data with any other party

**What will happen to the results of the study?**

We will produce a final report summarising the main findings, which will be available in Spring 2023.

This research may be published in academic journals, professional reports, and part of a PhD thesis

You can contact the study team to find out the results of the research and these results will also be published on : <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/research-projects/awdisp-survey-asking-women-diabetes-about-sexual-problems>.

Links to educational resources regarding this patient group will also be published on this site.

**Who has reviewed this study?**

This research has been reviewed by an independent group of people, called an Ethics Committee. This study was reviewed and given a favourable ethical opinion by the University of Surrey Ethics Committee (Ref: FHMS 21-22 245 EGA)

**Section: Your personal data**

**What is personal data?**

‘Personal Data’ means any information that identifies you as an individual. We will be collecting and using some of your personal data that is relevant to completing the study and this section describes what that means.

The information that we will collect may include your email address, if you chose to provide this, which is regarded as ‘personal data’ and religion and ethnic origin, which is regarded as a ‘special category personal data’. We will use this information as explained in the ‘What is the purpose of the study’ section above*.*

**Who is handling my personal data?**

The University of Surrey who has the legal responsibility for managing the personal data in this study, will act as the ‘Data Controller’ for this study. The research team will process your personal data on behalf of the controller and is responsible for looking after your information and using it properly.

**What will happen to my personal data?**

As a publicly funded organisation, we must only use **identifiable personal** information from people who have agreed to take part in research, and process this data fairly and lawfully. The University of Surrey processes personal data for the purposes of carrying out research in the **public interest** and special category data is processed on an additional condition necessary for **research purposes.** This means that when you agree to take part in this research study, we will use and look after your data in the ways needed to achieve the outcomes of the study.

Your personal data will be held and processed in the strictest confidence, and in accordance with current data protection regulations. When acting as the data controller, the University will keep identifiable information about you for 7 years after the study has finished after which time any identifiers will be removed from the aggregated research data.

Your rights to access, change or move your information are limited, as we need to manage your information in specific ways or the research to be reliable and accurate. If you decide to withdraw from the study, we may not be able to withdraw your data. We will keep and use the minimum amount of your personally identifiable information that we have already collected in order to complete the study.

If you wish to complain about how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter ([dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk)). If you are not satisfied with our response or believe we are processing your personal data in a way that is not lawful, you can contact the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

You can find out more about how we use your information <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/information-management/data-protection> and/or by contacting [dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@surrey.ac.uk) .

**Section: Further information**

**What if you have a query or something goes wrong?**

If you are unsure about something, you can contact the research team for further advice using the contact details at the bottom of this information sheet.

However, if your query has not been handled to your satisfaction, or if you are unhappy and wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team, then please contact:

Research Integrity and Governance Office (RIGO)

Research and Innovation Services

University of Surrey

Senate House, Guildford, Surrey, GU2 7XH

Email: [rigo@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:rigo@surrey.ac.uk)

The University has in place the relevant insurance policies which apply to this study. If you wish to complain or have concerns about how you have been treated during the course of this study, then you should follow the instructions given above.

**Who should I contact for further information?**

Dr Joanna Murphy, MRCGP Postgraduate Researcher School of Health Sciences,

University of Surrey

Kate Granger Building

Priestly Road

Surrey Research Park

Guildford

GU2 7YH

T: 07585008387

E: j.c.murphy@surrey.ac.uk

You can also speak to the project supervisor:

Dr David Griffiths, PhD

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,

University of Surrey

AC Building 7XH

Alexander Fleming Road

Guildford

GU2 7JL

T: 01483 682617

E: d.a.griffiths@surrey.ac.uk

If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact the research team using the following contact details:

**Sources of support**

There are organisations who can provide support, which we warmly encourage colleagues to access in the event of distress.

You may wish to contact your regulatory body or HR/ employer for local resources. Here are some organisations who can provide support or signpost to other resources:

Emotional support:

If you need to speak to someone urgently, call your local crisis line (accessible via 111) or in an emergency attend A&E or call 999.

Samaritans

Samaritans provides a 24 hour a day confidential listening service, please visit www.samaritans.org or call on 116 123

The Queen’s nursing Institute: qni.org.uk The QNI listening service offers emotional support to registered nurses working in the community, through a phone listening service which can be accessed by emailing talktous@qni.org.uk

Duty to care support@dutytocare.info Resources for mental wellbeing for NHS workers including access to one-to-one sessions and online advice

BMA Wellbeing Support: confidential telephone and peer counselling, free of charge to all doctors and medical students 03301231245

Doctors support network info@dsn.org.uk Confidential peer support network for doctors concerned about their mental health

**Educational resources for patients and professionals regarding female sexual problems and diabetes:**

An article on female sexual dysfunction on patient.co.uk

<https://patient.info/doctor/female-sexual-dysfunction-pro> (accessed 28/04/22)

Patient information available from Diabetes UK:

<https://www.diabetes.org.uk/guide-to-diabetes/complications/sexual-problems-women>

Information about managing female sexual problems from the NHS: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/sexual-health/female-sexual-problems/>

Review article on female sexual dysfunction and diabetes:

Winkley, K., Kristensen, C. and Fosbury, J., 2021. Sexual health and function in women with diabetes. *Diabetic Medicine*, *38*(11), p.e14644.

Further educational resources are available on the study website <https://www.surrey.ac.uk/research-projects/awdisp-survey-asking-women-diabetes-about-sexual-problems>.

and more resources will be added as the project develops.

**Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.**