

# Relief for wheelchair users with Sciatica

This is the participant information sheet – **please read thoroughly and carefully**. The aim of this is to explain why this research is being done and what it will involve. If you have any questions, please ask us before signing the participant agreement form.

Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

## Background

There are currently around 1.2 million wheelchair users in the UK. Two thirds of them are regular wheelchair users. The British Chiropractic Association reported that 48% of people in the UK reported that they suffered from any back or neck pain at any one time, possibly associated with spending an increasing amount of time seated at office desks. Back pain is extremely common in the UK, with 60%-80% reporting back pain at some time in their lives.

## Research Aims

The aims of this research are to give an increased understanding of sciatica and how this can affect regular wheelchair users in their daily lives. We also aim to understand the methods of relieving sciatica and lower back pain for people who spend long periods of time sat down.

Participants will have been chosen for their knowledge around the area of Sciatica, whether they have the conditions themselves, if they have professional experience in a certain field to do with spinal cord injuries (for example such as physiotherapists) or carers who work closely with wheelchair users on a day to day basis.

## Participant Withdrawal

It is important to reiterate that this project is completely voluntary; that any refusal to answer any questions or withdrawal from the interview at any time will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which the participant is otherwise entitled. You may withdraw up to the point of when the data is processed. Should you decide to take part, you will be given this participant information sheet to keep and will be asked to read and sign the participant agreement form.

## Research Methodology

Participants may also be asked to partake in an unstructured questionnaire.

## Data Process and Collection

All data will be destroyed once collected, transcribed to digital and all information collected will ensure that everything is anonymous unless otherwise agreed. All further processed information will be destroyed after July 2017. Participants should feel welcome to expand on answers to the questions.

All participants will need to be honest in their answers and most of all, they should feel comfortable. Participants are welcome to speak freely given that it is related to the question, however, participants should be aware there is a time constraint.

### **What are the advantages and disadvantages of taking part?**

While there are no immediate benefits for participants to take part in this project, it is hoped that all research gained will hope to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities as well as providing more research and insight in this area.

The disadvantages and risks could be that there is a chance that some of the questions asked may induce stress to the participant. For example, if the participant experiences pain from sciatica and the questions are based on their experiences of sciatica, they might feel uncomfortable due to remembering past experiences.

### **Further Details**

If you would like any further details or have any questions in regards to this project please contact:

Emma Yeung  
EmmaYeung@Hotmail.co.uk  
07523933394

### **Complaints**

In the case of a complaint, participants should contact Professor Matt Bentley, the Deputy Dean of Research and Professional Practice in the Faculty of Science and Technology at Bournemouth University.

Professor Matt Bentley  
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01202 962203  
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**Thank you for taking the time to read the participant information sheet.  
Please continue on to sign the participant agreement form.**