



MEN'S ATTITUDES TO INTIMATE LIFE (MAIL) STUDY

Participant Information Sheet for Patients

You are invited to take part in a research study exploring attitudes towards parenthood and intimate life among HIV-positive gay and bisexual men in London. Please take some time to read this information sheet and decide whether or not you would like to take part.

What is this study about? The study looks at what men living with HIV, who identify as gay or bisexual and currently don't have children, think about the future and how they feel about having children or remaining childfree. We want to find out whether such men see parenthood as an option or whether they imagine their futures in other ways. The study's findings will be useful for healthcare practitioners and they will help us assess the needs for relevant service provision. Taking part in the study is completely confidential and it will not affect your access to healthcare.

Who is taking part? We are recruiting men through three sexual health clinics in London. All men who identify as gay or bisexual, who are between 20 and 45 years old, who are HIV-positive, and who currently don't have children are eligible to take part. It is important that this research reflects a range of opinions and feelings about parenthood and intimate life, so your contribution is much appreciated.

What will I have to do? You have been asked to take part in an in-depth interview. If you agree to participate, we will have an informal conversation about your personal relationships and your views about the future. If you're asked any questions that you are not comfortable answering, please don't feel pressured to do so. Also, you can withdraw from the study at any time, without giving any reason. The interview should last between one and two hours, and it will be recorded. You will also be asked to sign a consent form. As a thank you for your time, you will receive a £20 Love2shop voucher.

Why is the interview recorded? The interviews for this study are recorded so that they can be analysed in detail, without missing anything important. This is standard practice in research of this kind. The recordings will be transcribed and any identifiable information, such as names, will be deleted from the transcript. The only people having access to recordings will be the interviewer and the person transcribing the interviews. Short excerpts from the interviews may appear in publications such as articles or reports. These will always be selected with care, ensuring that no one can be identified. Once the interview transcripts have been anonymised, data cannot be removed. In addition to this study, the transcripts may also be used in future studies.

Why do I need to complete a consent form? Consent forms are required for the study to adhere to ethical guidelines. These guidelines protect research participants and ensure the quality of research. Only the study team will have access to the consent forms. They will be kept in a secure place, separately from the recordings and transcripts.

Who is running this study? The project is being conducted by the Reproductive Sociology Research Group (ReproSoc) at the University of Cambridge. It is funded by the British HIV Association and the Wellcome Trust, and it has been approved by the Health Research Authority's London - Camberwell St Giles Research Ethics Committee (ref. 16/LO/0030).

For more information, visit the study website: www.sociology.cam.ac.uk/mail. Should you have any further questions, please feel free to email Robert Pralat, the interviewer and the study's Chief Investigator, at robert.pralat@nhs.net or call him on **07340 802598**.