



MEN'S ATTITUDES TO INTIMATE LIFE (MAIL) STUDY

Participant Information Sheet for Healthcare Practitioners

You are invited to take part in a research study exploring attitudes towards parenthood and intimate life among HIV-positive gay and bisexual men and perceptions of these attitudes among healthcare practitioners who work with this patient group. Please take some time to read this information sheet and decide whether or not you wish 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 the possibilities of having children or remaining childfree. We are also keen to hear what healthcare practitioners working in sexual health clinics think about discussing reproductive health issues with this patient population. We want to find out whether there is a need to address things like fertility and family planning with gay and bisexual men who access HIV medical care, and how to improve patient-practitioner communication.

Who is taking part? In addition to patients, we are also recruiting practitioners through three sexual health clinics in London. All practitioners who work with HIV-positive men, including physicians, nurses, health advisors and psychologists, are eligible to take part.

What will I have to do? You have been asked to take part in a semi-structured interview. If you agree to participate, we will have an informal conversation about your experience working with HIV-positive patients, your perceptions of patients' attitudes and your views on service provision in the area of sexual and reproductive health. 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 up to an hour and it will be recorded. You will also be asked to sign a consent form.

Why is the interview recorded? The interviews for this study are recorded so that they can be analysed in detail, without missing anything important. The recordings will be transcribed and any identifiable information, such as names, will be deleted from the transcript. The only people having access to the recordings will be the interviewer and the transcription service. 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 strictly confidential, 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.