PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT - Survey

(1) What is this study about?

You are invited to take part in a research study about people’s experience of travelling overseas for medical procedures. The study aims to understand how people make decisions to travel overseas, how they experience their procedure(s) and how they recover from procedure(s) after returning to Australia. This study is the first in Australia to gather data from people who have experienced a diverse range of procedures. The results of this study will inform current health care practitioners’ understanding of overseas medical procedures from consumers’ point of view and has the potential to contribute to health policy formation in this area.

You have been invited to participate in this study because you have travelled outside of Australia in the last 12 months for one or more of the following procedures: Dentistry (e.g. dental implants, dentures, crowns, whitening), Cosmetic surgery (e.g. breast augmentation, facelifts, liposuction), Cardiology/cardiac surgery (e.g. bypass and valve replacement), Orthopaedic surgery (e.g. hip replacement, resurfacing, knee replacement, joint surgery), Bariatric surgery (e.g. gastric bypass, gastric banding), Fertility/reproductive systems (e.g. in vitro fertilisation (IVF), gender reassignment), Organ, cell and tissue transplantation (e.g. organ transplantation, stem cell therapy) or Ophthalmological procedures (e.g. laser eye surgery, lens implants).

This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don’t understand or want to know more about.

Participation in this research study is voluntary.

By giving your consent to take part in this study you are telling us that you:

✔ Understand what you have read.
✔ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below.
✔ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Statement to keep.
(2) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by Dr Rowena Forsyth, Lecturer in the Discipline of Behavioural and Social Sciences in Health at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney.

(3) What will the study involve for me?

Your participation in this interview will involve you completing an online survey form. The first part of the form asks for demographic information such as age, gender and relationship status. The next part of the form asks about how you made the decision to travel overseas, who you discussed your decision with, your experience of the procedure(s) and your recovery from the procedure(s). If you indicate that you received more than one procedure then you will be asked to complete these questions separately for each procedure. The final part of the form asks whether you would be willing to participate in an interview about your experience and whether you would like to receive a copy of the study results.

Types of responses include short answers, drop down lists and longer response fields. You may choose not to answer some questions if you wish.

You can complete the survey at a time convenient to you on any internet connected device (computer or tablet) by following the link to the website.

You are not required to provide your name to complete the survey however if you would also like to participate in an interview then you will need to provide your contact details at the end of the survey.

(4) How much of my time will the study take?

Each survey will take around 15 minutes to complete but may be longer depending on the number of procedures you have received.

(5) Who can take part in the study?

People are eligible to participate in this study if they are over 18 years of age, reside in Australia and have travelled overseas for one or more of the following procedures in the last 12 months: Dentistry (e.g. dental implants, dentures, crowns, whitening), Cosmetic surgery (e.g. breast augmentation, facelifts, liposuction), Cardiology/cardiac surgery (e.g. bypass and valve replacement), Orthopaedic surgery (e.g. hip replacement, resurfacing, knee replacement, joint surgery), Bariatric surgery (e.g. gastric bypass, gastric banding), Fertility/reproductive systems (e.g. in vitro fertilisation (IVF), gender reassignment), Organ, cell and tissue transplantation (e.g. organ transplantation, stem cell therapy) or Ophthalmological procedures (e.g. laser eye surgery, lens implants).

This study includes a broad range of procedure types due to its exploratory nature. Depending on the results it may be possible for the research to identify similarities and differences between people’s experiences of these procedures.

(6) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I’ve started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney.
You are free to stop completing the survey at any time. Unless you say that you want us to keep them, any responses you have given will be erased and the information you have provided will not be included in the study results. You may also refuse to answer any questions that you do not wish to answer during the survey.

Once you have submitted the survey, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are anonymous and therefore we will not be able to tell which one is yours.

(7) **Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?**

It is not anticipated that participation in this research will cause you undue distress however if you would like to speak to someone confidentially about feelings raised by your participation then you can contact the University Counselling and Psychological Services (CAPS) on Ph: 8627 8433. Alternatively out of hours support is available via Mental Health Access Line: 1800 011 511.

(8) **Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?**

We cannot guarantee that you will receive any direct benefits from being in the study.

(9) **What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?**

The survey will record data electronically which will be securely stored on the University of Sydney’s server and only accessed by the researcher using a password. Study results will be analysed and stored on the researcher’s password protected file storage at the University. Any hard copies of data will be securely stored in a locked filing cabinet in a locked office at the University of Sydney and will not be stored together.

Your personal information will be stored securely and kept confidential except as required by law. Study results will be published in academic journals and other scholarly publications and presented at conferences. A participant summary report will also be produced when the study has finished. You may opt to receive this report by providing your email or postal address on the consent form. All study publications will not identify you or any health professionals or facilities by name but instead pseudonyms will be used.

Survey data will be stored for five years in line with relevant legislation after which time they will be destroyed.

By providing your consent, you are agreeing to us collecting personal information about you for the purposes of this research study. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise.

(10) **Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study. You do not need to tell them any details about the information you provided when answering the survey.

Since this study seeks a broad range of experiences please consider mentioning the research to anyone who may also like to participate and fulfils the criteria of being:

- aged at least 18 years,
- an Australian resident and
• having travelled overseas for one or more of the following medical procedures in the last 12 months: Dentistry (e.g. dental implants, dentures, crowns, whitening), Cosmetic surgery (e.g. breast augmentation, facelifts, liposuction), Cardiology/cardiac surgery (e.g. bypass and valve replacement), Orthopaedic surgery (e.g. hip replacement, resurfacing, knee replacement, joint surgery), Bariatric surgery (e.g. gastric bypass, gastric banding), Fertility/reproductive systems (e.g. in vitro fertilisation (IVF), gender reassignment), Organ, cell and tissue transplantation (e.g. organ transplantation, stem cell therapy) or Ophthalmological procedures (e.g. laser eye surgery, lens implants).

You may send them the link to the survey website which is https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=T8M839A3HC

(11) What if I would like further information about the study?

When you have read this information, Dr Rowena Forsyth will be available to discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact Dr Rowena Forsyth on Rowena.forsyth@sydney.edu.au or Phone: 02 9351 9577.

(12) Will I be told the results of the study?

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. You can tell us that you wish to receive feedback by providing your email or postal address at the end of the survey form. This feedback will be in the form of a short participant summary report. You will receive this feedback after the study is complete.

(13) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney (protocol number 2017/1010). As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007). This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies.

If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:
• Telephone: +61 2 8627 8176
• Email: human.ethics@sydney.edu.au
• Fax: +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

This information sheet is for you to keep