

Participant Information Form

Research project title: Transforming hearing health care by enhancing candidate identification and referral for cochlear implants.

Name of Researchers: Cathy Sucher (CIA), Melanie Ferguson (CIB), Chris Warren (CIC), Emma Ramsay (CID).

Invitation:

You have been asked to participate in a pilot study as part of a research project being run by the Ear Science Institute Australia (ESIA), Cochlear Ltd and the Ear Sciences Centre at The University of Western Australia.

Aim of the Study (What is the project about?)

The purpose of the study is to assess the usefulness of the “Hearing Stages Tool” in prompting discussion about different hearing aid management options between;

1. people with hearing loss and their family members
2. people with hearing loss and their audiologist

What does participation involve?

You will be provided with a copy of the “hearing stages tool” by email and also as a link to the Ear Science Institute Website before your hearing appointment. If you agree to participate in the pilot study, you will be asked to complete a short 15-minute online survey accessed via the link provided to the Ear Science Institute website before your upcoming hearing appointment followed by another short, 15-minute online survey emailed to you after your appointment.

Voluntary Participation and Withdrawal from the Study

Participation is completely voluntary. You can choose whether or not to participate in the focus group and you can withdraw at any time for any reason which you do not have to explain to the researchers. Note that your data will be destroyed after withdrawal.

Your privacy

Your participation in this study and any information you provide will be treated in a confidential manner. The data will be kept in line with the WA University Sector Disposal Authority (WAUSDA) in a non-identifiable format, with access only through a password protected computer on a secure server. Data will be stored for seven years within a secure database, then destroyed. Your responses will remain anonymous and no names will be mentioned in any related reports.

PIF: Transforming hearing health care by enhancing candidate identification and referral for cochlear implants: Pilot study of the Hearing Stages Tool

Possible Benefits

An improved awareness for adults with hearing loss, and their loved ones of all the possible hearing management options currently available to adults with hearing loss, particularly those with moderately severe-to-profound hearing loss.

The ultimate aim of the study is to develop a digital tool to facilitate candidate identification and referral for cochlear implant that is accessible to clients, and referring clinicians (predominantly hearing aid audiologists and GPs). It is anticipated that participants may receive direct benefit from this research via access to such a tool designed specifically to meet the needs of individuals directly in the decision-making process ultimately facilitating timelier and more efficient referral cochlear implant assessment, potentially helping more people who could benefit from a cochlear implant actually receiving one.

Possible Risks and Risk Management Plan

There are no foreseeable harms or risks to participants in this study.

Contacts

If you would like to participate or discuss any aspect of this study please feel free to contact either Dr Cathy Sucher (Chief Investigator) on phone: 1800 054 667 (please mention the project name and the chief investigators name), or email: cathy.sucher@earsience.org.au

Sincerely,

Dr Cathy Sucher

Chief Investigator

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics office at UWA on (08) 6488 4703 or by emailing to humanethics@uwa.edu.au. All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.