15th October 2022

Information Letter

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Natalie Micallef. I am a student at the University of Malta, currently reading for a M.A. Aging & Dementia Studies, within the Department of Gerontology & Dementia. For the purpose of my dissertation, I will be carrying out a research study entitled, ‘Knowledge, Perceptions and Attitudes of General Practitioners to Frailty, Screening and its Management in Primary Care: A Qualitative Study’, under the supervision of Dr. Mohamed Salem.

This letter is an invite for you to take part in this research study. Before you decide whether to participate or not, I would like to provide a brief of the study, why the research is being done and what it would involve should you consider participating.

The aim of this study is to explore the perceptions and experiences of Frailty of General Practitioners (GPs), operating in the primary care sector. Moreover, the knowledge and attitude of GPs in terms of frailty screening is being sought in order to potentially identify barriers and facilitators to frailty screening to introduce implementation of frailty screening in primary care.

Should you decide to take part in this study, you will be required to undertake a 20-30-minute interview, either in person or via Zoom (online), which will have to be recorded due to the qualitative aspects of the research study.

Strict ethical guidelines, as established by the University of Malta, will be followed. The information collected within this study shall be solely utilized for the purposes of the aforementioned research study. No reference to you directly will be made in the published results. All the data collected will be treated confidentially and transcriptions of the interview will be coded in order to ensure anonymity.

Participation is this study is on a voluntary basis. Participants can withdraw from the study at any time, without the need to explain the reason for withdrawal and without any repercussions. In the case of withdrawal prior to transcription, coding and publication of the study, any data collected from your interview will be erased. Upon publication of the study, all collected data will be erased.

There is no monetary or material remuneration for participating in this study. It is foreseen that your participation in this study does not entail any anticipated risks or harm.

Whilst thanking you for your time and cooperation, I shall be glad to keep you informed about the development and the results that will emerge from this research study. Should you wish further clarifications, kindly contact me via email on, natalie.micallef.01@um.edu.mt. You may also contact my supervisor Dr. Mohamed Salem, on mohamed.salem@gov.mt

Yours Sincerely,

Natalie Micallef

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