

APPENDIX A

INFORMATION LETTER FOR HAEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS

Dear Sir/ Madam

My name is Shingai Kuture; I am a Masters Student doing Nephrology in the Department of Nursing at the University of Witswatersrand. As part of the requirements for the degree, I am required to complete a research project. As I am interested in how family members experience chronic illness in the family unit (and how we, as nursing professionals, can perhaps better support you and them), I would like to ask them personally about their perceptions, opinions and experiences. As you are our primary concern, I would like to ask you for your permission to contact your family caregiver/s and conduct the study.

The study aims to enquire about the perceived benefits and burdens of caring for a patient on haemodialysis. If you permit, the study will be conducted at the unit where you are being treated. Alternatively, you will be requested to kindly deliver the questionnaire to your family member for completion.

Confidentiality and anonymity will be maintained throughout the duration of the study. No names or any other identifying details are required on the questionnaire. The information given by patient's families will be kept in a locked cupboard and only I, Shingai, and my supervisors, Mrs Hillary Thurling and Dr Gayle Langley, will have access to the documents. The information given during the study will be published but can neither be traced to you nor your institution/treatment centre. You are free to decline permission for your family member to be part of the study with no consequences for you. Your decision will not affect your treatment or your relationship with the staff of the facility in any way. Please feel free to ask questions pertaining to the study. My contact details are provided below.

THANK YOU

YOURS SINCERELY

SHINGAI KUTURE (STUDENT)

SUPERVISOR DR GAYLE LANGLEY

CO SUPERVISOR HILLARY THURLING

UNIVERSITY OF WITSWATERSRAND

FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF NURSING

CONTACT DETAILS

SHINGAI KUTURE CELL: 0730743918

EMAIL: shingaikuture@yahoo.co.uk

DR GAYLE LANGLEY

EMAIL: gayle.langley@wits.ac.za

HILARY THURLING

EMAIL: Hilary.thurling@wits.ac.za

YES SIGN

NO

THANK YOU

YOURS SINCERELY

SHINGAI KUTURE (STUDENT)

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SHINGAI KUTURE CELL: 0730743918

EMAIL: shingaikuture@yahoo.co.uk

DR GAYLE LANGLEY EMAIL:

HILARY THURLING EMAIL: