

APPENDIX E: INFORMED CONSENT

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Dear Sir/Madam

My name is Dafni Zisis. I am a qualified doctor working as a general practitioner and also a post-graduate student in my third year of studies in Family Medicine at the Department of Family Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand. As part of my degree, I will be performing a research study assessing the needs of persons older than 65 years of age at Pioneer House. This facility was chosen because of its different levels of care for the aged.

The purpose of this research is to determine the needs of persons aged 65 years and older using a questionnaire known as the Camberwell Assessment of Needs for the Elderly (CANE). This is an internationally recognised questionnaire and has been shown to benefit persons. The information gathered is going to be analysed anonymously and will be used to assess whether a need exists currently in a specific area be it social, medical, psychological and whether there is assistance from informal sources such as family friends or from local services.

Participation is entirely voluntary. Choosing to decline or withdraw at any time is also completely acceptable with no penalties. There will be no compensation.

The study will require about an hour of your time where certain questions will be asked of you. Initially, a test will be performed in order to assess your cognitive function which means looking to see if you are capable of being able to answer the questions from the CANE assessment. There are no right or wrong answers. Some people will proceed to the next level whereas others will not. Where it is found that there is cognitive impairment, the relevant person will be notified as this is important to your well-being.

To be included, one needs to be a resident of Pioneer House for a period greater than one month so that a period of adjustment has taken place. The age of the participants must also be greater than 65 years of age excepting in the pilot study.

If you are known to have mental impairment through dementia or other condition, then you will not be able to proceed with the questionnaire due to you legally not being able to give consent and this also affecting the outcome of the results. Being able to communicate in English is also a pre-requisite.

Where a need is not met and where there may be an intervention, the researcher will make this knowledge available to a party chosen by you only once consent has been agreed upon.

INFORMED CONSENT

I _____ (name and surname) have been informed of the purpose of the assessment on this date _____ (day/month/year) by _____ (name and surname).

I understand that if I display cognitive impairment whilst performing the Mini-Cog test that this information will be passed on to a relevant authority of my choice.

I understand that if I proceed and do the assessment, that any information ascertained will be kept confidential excepting its use in the data analysis in which case it will remain anonymous. If the researcher _____ (name and surname) feels that it is pertinent that certain information be related to another person, I will decide on whether this is what I want and I will decide who to nominate to receive the information in writing.

I _____ (name and surname) hereby give consent _____ (signature) for the questioning to proceed.

_____ (name and surname of witness/researcher)

_____ (signature witness/researcher)

_____ (date: dd/mm/yyyy)