

## Participant Information Sheet

**Title of study:** Investigating quality of life in people with colorectal cancer

**Researcher:** Astrid McLellan

**You are being invited to take part in a research study carried out by the Department of Psychological Sciences and Health at the University of Strathclyde. Before you decide to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and feel free to contact the research team with any questions.**

**Researcher:** Astrid McLellan (astrid.mclellan@strath.ac.uk)

**Chief Investigator:** Professor Leanne Fleming (l.fleming@strath.ac.uk)

### **What is the purpose of this research?**

This research aims to investigate quality of life in people with colorectal cancer. Although colorectal cancer is the fourth most common cancer in the UK, current research does not sufficiently explore quality of life after being diagnosed with colorectal cancer. By taking part in this study, you will be contributing to the advancement of supportive care in cancer. Your experiences and insights may help researchers identify patterns and trends that will inform improvements in colorectal cancer care and wellbeing.

### **Why have you been invited to take part?**

We are inviting people (aged 18 years and over) who have been diagnosed with colorectal cancer. You are eligible to participate regardless of your treatment status, meaning you can participate in this study whether you are actively receiving treatment or if you have completed cancer treatment. By taking part in this study, you will be contributing to the advancement of supportive cancer care.

### **Do you have to take part?**

No, taking part in this research study is voluntary. If you decide to take part, you can withdraw at any time up until completion, without providing a reason or facing any consequences. Once the study is complete, your information will be anonymised and combined with other responses, so it will not be possible to identify any of your information.

We will check whether you are eligible to take part in the study by asking you some questions. If you are eligible, you will be asked to complete the rest of the questionnaire. If you do not meet the inclusion criteria for this, you will be notified before you complete the remainder of the questionnaire.

After completing the study, you will receive a debrief form with contact details for support services and educational resources, should you feel the need for support or advice. There will also be an option to provide an email address if you would like to be considered for a follow-up interview. Please note that not everyone who

provides an email address will be contacted. We will select a sample of participants who have completed the questionnaire to take part in the interview via Zoom.

### **What will you do in the project?**

You will be asked to complete an online questionnaire that will take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete. In the questionnaire, you will be asked questions about your experience with colorectal cancer and quality of life. You are only required to complete this questionnaire once. Following the questionnaire, you will be given the opportunity to opt into a follow-up interview via Zoom that will last approximately 50 minutes. The interview will be audio recorded in order to be transcribed. Please keep this in mind when making the decision to opt in.

It is important to note that not everyone who consents to the interview will be contacted to take part. We will contact only a proportion of those people who have completed the questionnaire and invite them for the interview. Selection of participants for the interview will be made randomly.

You can complete the questionnaire without having to opt in to the interview. However, you cannot complete the interview without participating in the questionnaire. Please indicate on the consent form whether you would like to consent to the questionnaire only, the questionnaire and interview, or neither.

### **What information is being collected in the project?**

The questionnaire will ask about your general wellbeing, sleep, mood, energy levels and quality of life. The interview (should you wish to participate) will further explore quality of life and general wellbeing in colorectal cancer.

### **Who will have access to the information?**

All data will be stored securely, according to relevant data protection legislation. The data, audio recordings and interview transcripts will be stored on the University of Strathclyde's secure server that is password-protected. Only the research team will have access to this. Data will then be aggregated and analysed to produce a report with findings. Your information will not be identifiable within the report.

### **Where will the information be stored and how long will it be kept for?**

The research team conducting this study follows GDPR practices, which is a legal framework that sets guidelines for collecting, storing and protecting your data. The responses that you provide during the study will be anonymised so that your identity remains private.

If you share any personal information that could identify you, it will remain confidential and kept within a secure password protected file. Personal information that could identify you will be securely deleted after it is no longer necessary to keep, and any data that could be used to identify you will not be published.

Upon completion of the study, all digitised questionnaire responses will be fully anonymised and securely stored on GDPR-compliant servers at the University of Strathclyde, accessible only to the research team and authorised University staff. The research will adhere to the British Psychological Society's code of conduct, and your data will be managed in accordance with the UK Data Protection Act.

### **What happens next?**

The results of the study will be analysed and written up by the researcher for their PhD project. They may also be presented at conferences, submitted to academic journals, and shared publicly in open data archives for other

researchers to analyse. No individual data will be presented, and all questionnaire answers will be presented anonymously. No individual will be able to be identified from the data within the study.

**Who can I contact if I want more information?**

If you wish to receive more information about the study and/or a summary of the anonymised group results, please email the researcher or the chief investigator listed at the beginning of this information sheet.

**If you have any concerns or complaints, please contact the chief investigator:**

Professor Leanne Fleming (l.fleming@strath.ac.uk).

**This research was granted ethical approval by the University of Strathclyde Ethics Committee.**

**If you have any questions/concerns, during or after the research, or wish to contact an independent person to whom any questions may be directed or further information may be sought from, please contact:**

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Research & Knowledge Exchange Services  
University of Strathclyde  
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**Thank you for considering taking part in the above study.**