

# **Informasjonsskriv og samtykkeskjema til fysioterapeuter i Norge som deltar i "SIG Mobility Covid project"**

## **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

As part of the mobility special interest group (SIG) of the 'Rehabilitation in Multiple Sclerosis – European network for best practice and research (RIMS: [www.eurims.org](http://www.eurims.org)), we are undertaking this survey in order to determine how physical therapy services for people with MS (access, type of treatment, delivery mode, practical, etc.) were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Principal Investigator of this study, Tori Smedal (physiotherapist, PhD, Norwegian Multiple Sclerosis Competence Centre) is leading this survey in Norway.

## **WHAT WILL THE STUDY INVOLVE?**

The study will involve a short survey on your experiences about the delivery of your physiotherapy practice both before the COVID-19 pandemic (2019) and during the pandemic (2020). The study includes a mixture of closed questions, and should take approximately 15-20 minutes to complete.

## **WHO HAS APPROVED THE STUDY?**

The department at Haukeland University Hospital supports the implementation of the study. The study does not require review by a regional Committee for Medical and Health Research Ethics in Norway.

## **WHY HAVE YOU BEEN ASKED TO TAKE PART?**

You have been asked to participate because you are a physiotherapist working with people with multiple sclerosis.

## **DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE PART?**

No, you are under no obligation whatsoever to take part in this research. It is entirely up to you to decide whether or not you would like to take part. If you decide to do so, you will be asked to complete an electronic anonymized consent form. If you decide to take part, you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

## **WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?**

Information on your age group, education, experience and organization would be requested. In addition, we ask whether you were affected by Covid-19. This is followed by questions concerning organizational changes and rehabilitation practices both prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and during the pandemic (2020).

#### WILL YOUR INFORMATION BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes, all information that is collected about you during the course of the research will be kept confidential. The survey is designed in such a way that you cannot be identified from the data that you provide, and therefore is anonymous. Since the data are anonymous, it will not be possible for you to withdraw data after you have submitted the survey.

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE INFORMATION THAT YOU GAVE?

All the information you provide will be inputted in a safe digital database at Helse Vest IKT. They will then be delivered to, and administered by the principal investigator Tori Smedal and her research group, and stored in a safe database. The data collected in Norway will be analyzed separately by researchers in Helse Bergen together with cooperators at Nordlandssykehuset HF and Nord Universitet in Bodø. Additionally, this database will be shared with the SIG mobility group of the RIMS European network, in order to undergo analysis from all of the countries involved. The data may also be used in further research projects and subsequent publications.

#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE RESULTS?

Once the data in the datasets are analyzed, the research will be written up and presented as a summary report to be discussed at RIMS SIG mobility group meetings, and may be published in scientific journals or presented at National or International Conferences. A copy of the research findings will be made available to you upon request to the principal investigator (for contact information, see the website link in the invitation letter).

#### WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF TAKING PART?

We do not envisage any negative consequences for you in taking part in this research.

#### ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS?

If you need any further information, you can contact the principal investigator (for contact information, see the website link in the invitation letter).

If you agree to take part in the study, please complete the consent form on the next page.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Please indicate your eligibility and consent to participant in the following research:

- I am a physiotherapist and provide services to people with multiple sclerosis.
- The purpose and nature of the study has been explained to me in writing.
- I am participating voluntarily.
- I understand that I can withdraw from the study without repercussions at any time, whether that is before it starts or while I am participating. Since the data are anonymous, it is not possible for me to withdraw data after I have submitted the survey. \*
- It has been explained to me how my data will be managed.
- I understand that my data is confidential as described in the information sheet.
- I understand that my data are collected anonymously, and that this anonymous dataset would be shared within the SIG mobility group of the European RIMS network.
- I understand that my data may be used in further research projects and any subsequent publications.

If you agree to fill the questionnaire, please check this box