**COPD and Assistive technology**

**Study title:** Understanding the potential of assistive technology (AT) in people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to support independence and wellbeing: A qualitative study

**Research Ethics Committee Ref:** **23/LO/0660**

Study invitation letter (Carer)

Date

Dear

We are supporting the COPD and Assistive technology research study team at Queen Mary University of London.

Please read the information below from the study team inviting you to take part in an interview study.

Assistive technology is devices or equipment that helps people with disability or who have difficulty in performing daily routine activities. People with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) can have difficulty in performing route activities such as cooking or cleaning or walking up the stairs due to shortness of breath, cough, or tiredness.

Assistive technology is wide-ranging from personal alarms to home adaptations like stair lifts and includes digital technology such as Alexa. This type of technology can help people to carry out daily routine activities more easily and safely in their home and surroundings. But there is not enough information on how assistive technology can help people with COPD and in what way.

If you are or have been involved in arranging or getting assistive technology on behalf of your family member or friend with COPD or with them, we would like to hear your views and experiences on this topic. The discussion will be to understand what worked well, what the challenges were and how experience of assistive technology could be improved.

In this study we will be speaking to people with COPD, carers of people with COPD and professionals involved in assistive technology. We would like to encourage people from different ethnic groups to take part including from Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Black African and Black Caribbean groups.

If you agree to take part, the date and time of the interview will be arranged with you. The interview will take place online via Zoom/Teams, by telephone or face to face (in line with Covid-19 guidance) as per your choice, in the language of your choice and will last up to an hour. After the interview, you may also be invited to take part in a one-off photography project. For this project we will support you in taking photos that relate to your experience with assistive technology and then speak to you about what the photos mean to you to understand your experience. The enclosed study information sheet gives you more details about the study. It will be entirely up to you if you decide to take part.

Anything you say will be treated confidentially and remain anonymous.

As a thank you for your time and contribution to the study, we will offer you a £30 love2shop voucher if you take part in the interview and a £30 love2shop voucher if you take part in the photography project.

Please know that your participation is entirely voluntary, and there is no obligation to take part in the study.

If you would like to ask any further questions or if you are interested in taking part, please contact either Dr Ratna Sohanpal or Farhin Ahmed (contact details below).

Yours sincerely

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Study Lead** | **Study Researcher** |
| Dr Ratna Sohanpal  [ratna.sohanpal@nhs.net](mailto:ratna.sohanpal@nhs.net)  07940422954  Centre for Primary Care, Queen Mary University of London, 58 Turner Street, London, E1 2AB | Farhin Ahmed  [farhin.ahmed@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:farhin.ahmed@qmul.ac.uk)  07940422954  Centre for Primary Care, Queen Mary University of London, 58 Turner Street, London, E1 2AB |