



Body Image and Identity: The Experience of Multiple Chronic Conditions

Letter of Introduction

WHO IS DOING THE STUDY?

Dr. Laura Hurd Clarke, Assistant Professor in the School of Human Kinetics at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Hurd Clarke's office telephone number is **(604) 822-4281**.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Men and women who are 75+ and have three or more chronic conditions*

*(*Note: This includes arthritis/rheumatism, asthma, back problems, bowel disorder, cancer, cataracts/glaucoma, chronic fatigue syndrome, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, diabetes, effects of stroke, epilepsy, fibromyalgia, heart disease, mental illness, migraine headaches, stomach ulcers, and thyroid condition.)*

WHY ARE WE DOING THE STUDY?

We want to find out what it is like to live with multiple chronic conditions and how these health issues influence a person's body image and sense of identity. Currently there is a lot of talk in the media about health and aging. The older you are, the more likely you are to have chronic conditions. The findings from this study will improve our understanding of what it is like to live with multiple chronic conditions in later life and how people manage these types of health issues.

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

If you agree to participate, you will be interviewed two times by Dr. Hurd Clarke or one of her graduate students. Each of the two interviews will take approximately 1.5 hours. The interviews will take place either at your home, my office on campus, or another place of your choosing. With your permission, we would like to digitally record the interview so that we can concentrate on what you have to say rather than on taking notes.

WILL YOU MENTION MY NAME?

No. Never. Your identity will be kept strictly private. Only Dr. Hurd Clarke and the graduate students involved in the project will have access to the digital recordings and study documents, which will be kept in a locked filing cabinet and on a password protected computer. No names or information that might show who you are will be used when the results of the study are reported.

WHAT IF I WANT TO QUIT?

Your participation in the study is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to answer any question or withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason and without penalty.

WILL I BE PAID?

No. Participation is voluntary. However, if you wish to be interviewed at the University of British Columbia campus, you will be reimbursed for your travel expenses to and from the interview.

If you would like more information about how to become involved in the study, please call **(604) 822-4281**. Thank you!