**Validation of the Quality Maternal and Newborn Care Framework index (QMNCFi)**

**- survey user version (English language)**

**University of Dundee School Research Ethics Committee Application (Ref UoD/SHS/2021-023)**

You have been invited to take part in a research project because you have given birth within the last year. Before you decide whether or not to take part it is important that you understand what the study is about. The information provided below will help you to understand why and how the research is being carried out and what your participation will involve. If anything is unclear or if you have any questions, please contact Andrew Symon at the University of Dundee or one of the in-country co-ordinators (see contact details at the end).

**Who is conducting the research?**

This is an international project with midwifery colleagues in Australia, Norway, India and Ghana (see ‘Study Team’ and ‘Contact details’ at the end of this document).

**Who is funding the research?**

This research is funded by an internal grant from the University of Dundee and from funds within the MIDRED study led by Berit Mortensen in Oslo, Norway*.*

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

We want to help women to evaluate the quality of maternity care they have received. We know that high quality maternity care improves outcomes for mothers and babies, but we also know that care is not always of high quality. We have already conducted group interviews with pregnant women, new mothers, midwives and doctors in Scotland and Australia. Following these interviews, we devised a questionnaire to allow mothers around the world to assess the quality of the maternity care they received. This phase of the research will test an online version of the questionnaire with new mothers in several countries.

**Do I have to take part?**

No, taking part is voluntary. If you choose not to take part this will not disadvantage you in any way. The survey is online, and we will not ask for any personal identifying details (like your name or where you live).

**What will happen if I take part?**

The ‘Read me first’ link took you to this document. Next to that there is another link which will take you to the survey form. The front page of this form checks that you are eligible to take part in this study, and that you understand what is involved. If you indicate that you are happy to proceed then the survey questions will appear. These relate to the maternity care you received during your last pregnancy, around the time of your baby’s birth and the first weeks after the birth. The questions have Yes/No or multiple-choice responses. Completing this should take no more then 20-25 minutes. Once you complete the questionnaire and press the ‘Submit’ button your answers will be sent to an online database. Submitting the completed questionnaire indicates your consent to be part of this study. If you complete the form and submit it, it will not be possible to delete your questionnaire if you later change your mind.

**Are there any risks in taking part?**

We consider this to be a low risk study. However, in asking women about the quality of care they received, it is possible that some distressing memories may be evoked. At any stage you can take a break from the questionnaire and decide later if you want to complete it. We have provided links to relevant support organisations within each country at the start and at the end of the survey form.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Except that this may help you to consider and reflect on how you felt about the care you received, completing this questionnaire will have no direct benefit for you. However, it will allow us to help maternity care providers to reinforce what they do well and to address those aspects of maternity care which need to be improved.

**Will my taking part in this project be kept confidential?**

We are not asking for any personal information (such as your name or where you live). We would like some women who respond to complete the survey a second time (about a fortnight later) to test the reliability of the survey form; this is called ‘retest’. To do this we need an email address so we can send the survey link out again. It doesn’t have to be your email address: you could, for example, use another family member’s.

The only other reason to include your email address in the survey form is if you wish to enter a prize draw for a voucher. We need an email address so we can send the voucher out. All email addresses submitted with the survey form will be removed and stored in a separate secure database. Once the retest reminders have been sent and the prize draw is complete, we will delete all these email addresses.

No one who participates in this survey will be identifiable in any report we make of the project.

**What will happen to the information I provide?**

The questions offer a range of possible answers and you should check the answer which best reflects your experience or situation. We are not asking for any information which means you could be traced – unless you choose to provide an email address to enter the prize draw or so that we can send you a repeat survey link (see the section above this).

Completed survey forms, once submitted, will go online to a central database hosted by the University of Dundee, Scotland. This database will be shared securely with our statistician based in Oslo Metropolitan University in Norway. Any reports and articles based on this analysis will not contain any information that could identify participants.

The anonymised database will be destroyed after ten years. Up to that point, as is now common practice, it will be made available to future researchers who have a valid reason to request access to it.

If you wish to receive a brief report of the study this will be available after June 2022. Please contact Andrew Symon (email below).

**Data Protection**

The only personal data that will be collected in this study are your age, how many pregnancies you have had, how many children you have, and what your household income is. The University of Dundee asserts that it is lawful for it to process your personal data in this project as this is necessary to perform a task carried out in the public interest – in this case, valid research into the quality of maternity care.

The University of Dundee is the data controller for the personal data processed in this project. We have a data sharing agreement with Oslo Metropolitan University where the statistical analysis will be done. Because the questionnaire, once submitted online, cannot be retrieved for a particular individual, participants will not be able to change any of their responses or add to or delete information about themselves. Please note that some of your rights may be limited where personal data is processed for research, but we are happy to discuss that with you. If you wish to complain about the use of your information please contact the University’s Data Protection Officer in the first instance (email: [dataprotection@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:dataprotection@dundee.ac.uk)). You may also wish to contact the United Kingdom’s Information Commissioner’s Office (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

You can find more information about the ways that personal data are used at the University of Dundee at: <https://www.dundee.ac.uk/information-governance/dataprotection/>.

**Is there someone else I can complain to?**

If you wish to complain about the way the research has been conducted please contact the Convener of the University of Dundee’s Research Ethics Committee: <https://www.dundee.ac.uk/research/governance-policy/ethicsprocedures/ethics/contacts/>

**Alternative formats**

You can customise the text size/colour to meet your individual needs by using the accessibility features of your web browser. Further information on how to do this is available from the Ability Net website <https://mcmw.abilitynet.org.uk/>

**The study team**

Dr Andrew Symon, University of Dundee, Scotland

Associate Professor Allison Cummins, University of Newcastle, Australia

Associate Professor Berit Mortensen, Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway

Professor Manju Chhugani, Jamia Hamdard University, India

Dr Samuel Adjorlolo, University of Ghana, Lagon

**Contact details**

If you have a query about the study, please contact the appropriate member of the research team:

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