**Participant Information Sheet – PHONE INTERVIEW** 

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**Barriers to Return of Home Sampling Kits for Sexually Transmitted Infections Requested Online: A Qualitative Study**

**Short title: STI home kits**

**Researchers**: Dr Annalise Weckesser, Gemma Williams & Dr Anita Hughes: Birmingham City University

We invite you to take part in this study, funded by Umbrella (<https://umbrellahealth.co.uk/>), which *aims to improve online Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) home testing kit services*. Please read the information below before deciding if you would like to take part.

**Why have I been asked to take part?**  You requested an STI home testing kit from Umbrella within the past year. We particularly want to speak with those who weren’t able to return the kit, so that we can identify ways to improve the service.

**What will taking part involve?** A 15-20 minute (but maximum of 30 minute) interview over the phone at a date and time that suits you best. Interviews will be audio-recorded with your permission. At a later date, there will be an optional online focus group, which you can take part in if you wish.

**What are the possible risks of taking part?** There are minimal risks, but talking about being tested for STIs can be a sensitive topic. During the interview, if you become upset at any time we can stop for as long as you like, or you can choose not to carry on. You don’t have to answer any questions that you are not comfortable with.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?** The information you provide will help improve the service. *You will receive a £10 voucher as a thank you for your time.*

**How will my information be kept safe and secure?** We will follow all of the current Data Protection Act 2018 guidelines (details below). All information about you will be confidential. To protect anonymity and confidentiality, audio-recordings will be destroyed once they have been transcribed, and transcripts will be anonymised and stored in a secure location in line with Birmingham City University (BCU) Faculty of Health, Education and Life Sciences (HELS) standard operating procedures. Documents containing personal information will be stored securely and separate from transcripts. Your personal data will not be shared, and your name will not be used in any reports or publications.

**What will happen if I don’t want to carry on with the study?** Taking part in this study is voluntary and you can stop participating and you don’t need to give a reason why. You can choose to withdraw from the study up to two weeks after the interview by contacting the lead researcher Annalise (details below). Your interview data will be destroyed and not used further in the research. *You don’t need to worry about being able to carry on accessing Umbrella’s services if you choose to take part or not. Umbrella will not know who is taking part in the study.*

**What will happen to the results of the study?** They will be used in reports, academic journal publications and presentations about the study. Your name will not be used in any report or publications.

**Who has reviewed the study?** This study has been reviewed and given favourable opinion by BCU’s HELS Research Ethics Committee and the **North West - Greater Manchester East NHS Research Ethics** Committee (IRAS #266059).

**What if there is a problem, or I have any further questions?** In the first instance, please contact the lead researcher (annalise.weckesser@bcu.ac.uk). You can also contact the HELS ethics Committee: HELS\_Ethics@bcu.ac.uk or the Chair of the committee directly, Dr. Stuart Mitchell: Stuart.Mitchell@bcu.ac.uk.

### How will we use information about you? We will need to use information from you for this research project. This information will include your name and contact details.  People will use this information to do the research or to check your records to make sure that the research is being done properly.

People who do not need to know who you are will not be able to see your name or contact details. Your data will have a code number instead. We will keep all information about you safe and secure.

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. We will write our reports in a way that no-one can work out that you took part in the study.

### What are your choices about how your information is used? You can stop being part of the study at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about you that we already have. We need to manage your records in specific ways for the research to be reliable. This means that we won’t be able to let you see or change the data we hold about you.

### Where can you find out more about how your information is used? You can find out more about how we use your information:

### at [www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/](https://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/)

### our leaflet available from [www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch)

### by asking one of the research team

### by sending an email to Birmingham City University’s Data Protection Officer [informationmanagement@bcu.ac.uk ]

### by ringing the Data Protection Officer [0121 331 5288].

**What do I do if I want to take part?** Please contact the lead researcher:

 Annalise Weckesser email: annalise.weckesser@bcu.ac.uk

Telephone: 0789 521 4735