Sinai Health | Mount Sinai Hospital
Joseph & Wolf Lebovic Health Complex

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Survey Participants

Title	HIV Mental Health Integration Across Hospital and Community
Investigator	Deanna Chaukos, MD, Principal Investigator 416-586-4800 x4561, Mount Sinai Hospital, deanna.chaukos@sinaihealth.ca
Co-Investigators	Tim Guimond, MD; Maria Mylopoulos, PhD; Trevor Hart, PhD; Yasser Ismail; Alan Wai MD; Celeste Bilbao-Joseph; Dawn Scarlett; Elise Hall MD; Stanislav Tikhonov; Thomas Egdorf; William O'Leary
Research Coordinator	Belinda Cheng, belinda.cheng@sinaihealth.ca
Sponsor	Ontario HIV Treatment Network Endgame Grant

Introduction

You are being asked to take part in a research study. Please read this explanation about the study and its risks and benefits before you decide if you would like to take part. You should take as much time as you need to make your decision. You should ask the research team to explain anything that you do not understand and make sure that all of your questions have been answered before moving forward with the study. Before you make your decision, feel free to talk about this study with anyone you wish. Participation in this study is voluntary.

Background and Purpose

The purpose of this study is to identify mental health resources available to people with HIV in Ontario, and to explore barriers and facilitators of mental health care for this population in Ontario. We are conducting this research to help improve awareness and integration of mental health resources, including specific tools that can be used to improve integration of efforts across community and hospital settings. This study includes one survey and up to three focus groups.

You have been asked to participate in this research study because you work in the HIV sector in Ontario (community worker, peer worker, or clinical role) and your perspective about how mental health care is provided in the HIV sector in Ontario is important.

Study Design

The study design is a needs assessment, which includes:

- One survey and;
- Three focus groups

This consent form is for the survey only. The needs assessment will ask about your experiences, knowledge about and perspective on working in the HIV sector, and how mental health care is accessed by clients in your region.

Study Procedures

The survey will be administered virtually using a secure software (REDCap Cloud) and take approximately 20-30 minutes.

You may also be invited to participate in a focus group for the study. If you choose to learn more about participating in the focus group, you will be asked to provide your contact information at the end of the survvey. A separate Focus Group Consent Form will then be sent to you, and the research coordinator will reach out to you to schedule a phone call to answer questions and discuss your availability for the focus group(s).

Risks Related to Being in the Study

There are no medical risks if you take part in this study, but being in this study may make you feel uncomfortable. You may refuse to answer questions or stop the survey at any time if there is any discomfort.

Benefits to Being in the Study

You may or may not receive any direct benefit from being in this study. Information learned from this study will help improve knowledge and spread awareness about different mental health resources in Ontario. It will also contribute to a proposal and collaborations for improved access to mental health resources for people living with HIV in Ontario.

Voluntary Participation

Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide not to be in this study, or to be in the study now and then change your mind later. You may leave the study at any time without affecting your employment. You may refuse to answer any question you do not want to answer.

Confidentiality

The responses will not be linked to you personally in any way. If you decide to provide it, your contact information (name, role, and email) will be saved by the study investigators to be able to invite you for future parts of this study (focus groups). Representatives of the Research Ethics Board may look at the study records to check that the information collected for the study is correct and to make sure the study followed proper laws and guidelines.

All information collected during this study will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside of the study unless required by law. You will not be named in any reports, publications or presentations that may come from this study. The information that is collected for the study will be kept in a locked and secure area by the study investigator for 10 years. Only the study team or the representatives of the Mount Sinai Hospital Research Ethics Board will be allowed to look at the study records.

Research Results

You have the right to be informed of the results of this study once the entire study is complete. Participants in the study will have the opportunity to access resources and a proposal, which will be one of the products of this study.

Expenses Associated with Participating in the Study

There are no anticipated expenses associated with participating in this study. Once we verify that you fit the study criteria, you will be provided with a $20 President's Choice(Loblaws, No Frills, Real Canadian Superstore, etc.) gift card as a token of appreciation for your participation in this survey.

Conflict of Interest

All members of the research team have an interest in completing this study. Their interests should not influence your decision to participate in this study. You should not feel pressured to join this study

Questions About the Study

If you have any questions, concerns or would like to speak to the study team for any reason, please call: Deanna Chaukos, Principal Investigator, 416-586-4800 x4561.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant or have concerns about this study, call the Chair of the Mount Sinai Hospital Research Ethics Board (REB) or the Research Ethics Office number at 416-586-4875. The REB is a group of people who oversee the ethical conduct of research studies.These people are not part of the study team. Everything that you discuss will be kept confidential.

Consent (to be completed on REDCap Cloud link: **Please send the Research Coordinator, Belinda Cheng** (Belinda.cheng@sinaihealth.ca) **an email if you'd like to sign the consent form and participate.)**

This study has been explained to me and any questions I had have been answered. I know that I may leave the study at any time. I agree to take part in this study by proceeding to the next page, including the survey.

By clicking "Yes, I consent" and providing your email address, you are agreeing to consent to participate in the survey portion of this study.

Please enter the email address that you provided to the Research Coordinator to receive a link to the survey: [Open text]