



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

E- Delphi survey on essential components of stuttering intervention for adults.

Dear Participant,

As part of my PhD programme with the University of Limerick, I am carrying out a study which aims to obtain consensus and establish priorities amongst adults who stutter and speech and language therapists on the core components of stuttering intervention for adults. The purpose of this information sheet is to give you information about the study so you can make an informed choice about whether to participate or not.

What is the study about?

The overall aim of the research is to collect multiple evidence forms (research, practice and client-based knowledge) and build consensus with a range of stakeholders on the core components of effective intervention for adults who stutter. This current study is about building collective agreement and establishing priorities of adults who stutter and speech and language therapists on the core components of intervention. The Delphi technique which uses rounds of questionnaires to collect data, provide feedback to participants, and achieve group consensus will be used.

What will I have to do?

You will have the opportunity to contribute your valuable experiences and perspectives of therapy as an adult who stutters or a speech and language therapist. You will be provided with feedback on two completed phases of the investigators' research to guide your participation in three online surveys which will take a total of 40-50 minutes (one 10-minute survey and two 15-minute surveys). This feedback will include the results of two systematic reviews on the lived experience of stuttering and stuttering intervention effectiveness, and also results from semi-structured interviews with global experts in stuttering intervention. The timing of the surveys will be spread out over several weeks between October and December 2020, with at least 2 weeks between each one. Your data will not be shared with the other participants.

What are the benefits?

You will learn about the researchers' published findings on two systematic reviews, and a study exploring the perspectives of expert clinicians and academics in stuttering intervention. You will also have the opportunity to voice your personal opinions on stuttering treatment and guide the multi-stakeholder consensus building and prioritisation of components of stuttering intervention. The findings of the study will help speech and language therapists and other stakeholders in the design and provision of more effective interventions and support for adults who stutter.

What are the risks?

I do not anticipate any negative outcomes from participating in this study. However, it is possible that some of the questions may lead to thoughts about difficult past experiences of therapy which might be upsetting. If this happens, you can choose not to answer questions, or you can end the survey at any time.

What if I do not want to take part?

Participation in this study is voluntary and you can choose not to take part or to stop your involvement in the study at any time.

What happens to the information?

The information that is collected will be stored securely and safely in the office of the principal investigator (Dr Arlene McCurtin) for 7 years. After this time, it will be destroyed. Your data will not be shared with any of the other participants.

Who else is taking part?

Other adults who stutter who have received intervention for their stuttering, and speech and language therapists who work with adults who stutter will be invited to take part in the study.

What if something goes wrong?

In the unlikely event that something goes wrong, the survey can be immediately paused by the participant until they are ready to restart, or the survey can be stopped completely.

What happens at the end of the study?

The data from the surveys will be analysed, and the results may be published and presented at conferences. Your name will not appear on any of the data presented.

What if I have more questions or do not understand something?

If you have any questions about the study you may contact any of the researchers. It is important that you feel that all your questions have been answered.

What happens if I change my mind during the study?

At any stage should you feel that you want to stop taking part in the study, you are free to stop and take no further part. There are no consequences for changing your mind about being involved in the study.

Contact name and number of project investigators:

Principal Investigator: Dr Arlene McCurtin

Health Sciences Building, School of Allied Health, University of Limerick, Tel (061) 234180.

Email: Arlene.McCurtin@ul.ie

Other investigators

Name: Amy Connery

PhD Candidate

Health Sciences Building,

School of Allied Health,

University of Limerick

Email: amy.connery@ul.ie

Name: Dr Rose Galvin

Senior Lecturer

Health Sciences Building,

School of Allied Health,

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I would be grateful if you would consider participating in this study.

Yours sincerely,



Principal Investigator



Investigator Name

This research study has received Ethics approval from the Education and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee (2020_06_05_EHS).

If you have any concerns about this study and wish to contact someone independent you may contact: Chairman Education and Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee, EHS Faculty Office, University of Limerick, Tel (061) 234101.