Participant Information Sheet
Randomised Control Study

Project Title:
Motherhood Choices: A Decision Aid for Women with Rheumatoid Arthritis

Who is carrying out the study?
You are invited to participate in a study conducted by Dr Tanya Covic from the University of Western Sydney, Associate Professor Louise Sharpe from the University of Sydney, Associate Professor Julie Pallant from the University of Melbourne, Associate Professor Nicholas Manolios from the University of Sydney and Mrs Diana Aspinall from Arthritis NSW.

What is the study about?
The purpose of the study is to develop an evidence-based, empirically validated Decision Aid tool to assist women with Rheumatoid Arthritis make informed decisions about motherhood within the context of their chronic illness.

What does the study involve?
- You will be asked to complete two surveys which will ask questions about decision making in regards to childbearing, your psychological wellbeing, and your understanding of the issues associated with Rheumatoid Arthritis.
- Following completion of the first questionnaire you will be contacted via telephone to discuss any relevant issues raised by the study.
- You will receive a copy of the Decision Aid tool either before or after the second questionnaire has been completed.

How much time will the study take?
The study will take approximately two hours in total, including all stages of participation.

Will the study benefit me?
Participation in this study will give you an opportunity to reflect on your understanding, knowledge and experience of Rheumatoid Arthritis as well as an opportunity to reflect on your past and/or future decisions about motherhood and parenting in the context of living with Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Will the study involve any discomfort for me?
There is a possibility that you may experience discomfort due to potentially sensitive issues surrounding the subject area. There will be opportunities for debriefing by researchers during or at the conclusion of the study. Should any further concerns be raised by participating in this study you may contact the researchers, or alternatively the Arthritis NSW Helpline 1800 011 041 or Lifeline 13 11 14.
**How is this study being paid for?**

The study is being funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and Arthritis NSW.

**Will anyone else know the results? How will the results be disseminated?**

All aspects of the study, including results, will be kept confidential and only the researchers will have access to information on participants. Results will be summarised and disseminated via annual reports to the funding body, presentation of findings in published peer-reviewed journal articles and at national and international conferences, and through Arthritis NSW and national offices. Project outcomes will also be disseminated to State and Territory Government Departments of Health as well as through media outlets. The Decision Aid tool will be made readily available to women with RA via Arthritis NSW offices and online.

**Can I withdraw from the study?**

Participation is entirely voluntary: you are not obliged to be involved and if you do participate you can withdraw at any time without giving any reason and without any consequences.

**Can I tell other people about the study?**

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by providing them with the chief investigator's contact details. They can contact the chief investigator to discuss their participation in the research project and obtain an information sheet.

**What if I require further information?**

When you have read this information, the project leader or project officer are available to discuss it with you further, and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact the project leader Dr Tanya Covic at t.covic@uws.edu.au or the project officer Ms Lisa Hallab at l.hallab@uws.edu.au.

**What if I have a complaint?**

This study has been approved by the University of Western Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H6884.

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through the Office of Research Services on Tel 02-4736 0883 Fax 02-4736 0013 or email humanethics@uws.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome.

If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form.