

Please be advised that the contents of the Participant Information Leaflet (PIL) will be updated to accurately reflect the different modes of communication being tested in the HEIT study. All studies share identical participant criteria, outcomes, recruitment strategies, with the only difference being the modes of communication being compared.

This PIL is based on HEIT 1 i.e., AI-generated online health information summaries vs. human expert-generated summaries

Study Title: Health Info Summaries: Robot Writers vs. Human Experts *[plain English title]*

Why we are doing this study

We are doing this study to find out people can understand health information summaries written by artificial intelligence (smart computer) called ChatGPT better than those written by human experts. We want to see if the artificial intelligence -generated summaries help people understand the information better, make people as happy (satisfaction) and help them remember the information as well as human-written summaries. The study will be conducted entirely online, allowing participation regardless of physical location.

We're looking at summaries that answer questions people have about things that affect our health, like drug effects, specific foods and cancer risk, the pros and cons of drinking a little alcohol, or special diet pills, nutrients, or exercise plans.

Who can join the study

Anyone from the public who is 18 years or older can take part, no matter their age, education, or where they live. Participants don't need to know much about health topics either.

How the study will work

People who join will be randomly placed into one of two groups, like drawing names from a hat. One group will read health summaries made by ChatGPT, and the other group will read summaries written by humans.

Both types of summaries will be easy to understand and explain health topics clearly.

To find out how well people learned from the summaries, we will ask them to:

1. Take a quiz about what they've read
2. Answer questions about how much they liked the summary and if they would trust it
3. Take another quiz at different times (like one week or one month later TBC) to see how much they remember

Then, we will compare the results of the two groups to see if there are any differences.

You won't be talking or working with any other participants in the study. You'll only be chatting with the people who are running this project by email.

Possible risks and benefits

There are no big risks in joining this study. But sometimes, people might feel upset if the information you are looking at doesn't match your own ideas or experiences. To make everyone feel comfortable, this information leaflet explains the study so you know what to expect and can choose if you want to join. You can also decide to leave the study anytime you want, with no problems if you feel uncomfortable.

If you choose to take part, you will receive compensation as per Prolific's standard payment guidelines. By taking part, you'll help us understand more about how people find and trust health information, which may shape future health communication and support services. You also might have some fun!

Privacy and data protection

Your responses will be completely anonymous. We won't collect any information that could identify you. The data will be stored securely at the University of Galway and used only for this research. Prolific will handle any personal data required for payment and verification, but this will not be shared with the research team. Your identity will stay anonymous in any reports, presentations, or publications based on the research.

How to join the study

You can access the survey through your Prolific account. The survey should take about 20-30 minutes to complete.

Other details

This study has insurance that covers it, and nothing in this leaflet takes away your rights. The Health Research Board (Ireland) has given money for this study.

Ethics approval

A group that checks if studies are okay, called the University of Galway Research Ethics Committee, has said this study is good to go

If you want to know more

You can talk to the team for more details. Email <contact>

By taking part in this study, you will help us learn how we can share health information in a better way.

Thank you!