

## **Participant Information Sheet**

**Study title: A new, novel walking frame for older adults in community settings**

**Researcher name: Dr Abi Hall**

You are invited to take part in a research study about the use of a new walking frame. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish. If anything is unclear or if you would like more information, please get in touch with one of the study team. Take your time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

### **Purpose and background to the research**

The frame has been designed to overcome some of the challenges of the standard issue walking frames that are typically provided by health services in England. We hope that this will help people move more and more easily. The frame has been fully safety tested and used in hospital settings, but we want to see how people find using the frame in their own homes.





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We are looking to recruit 30 people who:

- Have been using a standard walking frame for at least 1 year
- Live in their own home

### **What would taking part involve?**

- We will ask you to wear an activity tracker for two weeks so we can get an idea of your activity levels and put an activity tracker on your existing frame to see how much you move without your frame
- We will also ask you to complete a questionnaire and we will do some simple assessments to look at your walking.
- After two weeks, the physiotherapist will give you the new frame and, provided you feel safe using it, will leave it with you.
- After trailing it for two weeks we will repeat all the assessments and questionnaires to see how you are getting on with it.
- We will be in contact after two months to see how you are getting on.
- You may be asked to take part in a short interview so we can talk to you about using the frame. This could be face to face, over the telephone or on video-conferencing software – depending what you prefer. We will record the session until we have written it up at which point we will delete the recording. We will anonymise the transcript so that you cannot be identified. With your permission we may use anonymised quotes in our reports.
- If you like the frame, you will be able to keep it.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Taking part will give you an opportunity to:

- Test a new walking frame that has been designed especially to overcome some of the challenges of a standard walking frame
- If you like the walking frame and are safe to use it, you can keep it after the end of the study

### **What are the possible risks or disadvantages of taking part?**



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- The walking frame is new, so you may decide that you don't like it. It's important that we understand why and what could be improved.
- It is possible that you may fall over when using the new walking frame, but we don't believe this would be any more likely using the new frame compared to your standard frame.

### **Will I receive payment for taking part?**

No, we are not able to pay you to take part, but if you like the frame, you will be able to keep it.

### **How will we use information about you?**

We will need to use information from your medical records for this study. This information will include personal identifiable data:

- Name
- NHS number
- Home address
- Telephone number
- Medical and drug history

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.

If you disclose any information that suggests a person is at risk, we may need to pass on that information to the relevant health or social care professional. We would discuss this with you.



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## 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/](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/information-about-patients/)
- by asking one of the research team
- by sending an email to the Sponsor Representative (below) , or
- by ringing us on the number below for the Sponsor Representative
- by contacting The University of Exeter's Information Governance Manager and Data Protection Officer: [informationgovernance@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:informationgovernance@exeter.ac.uk)

## What will happen to the results of this study?

The results of the study will be used to plan a larger study where we can test the frame further. We will also write up the results in a journal article.

We can send you a copy of the results of the study if you would like to see them.

## Who has reviewed this study?

All research in the NHS is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests. This study has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by the *Frenchay* Research Ethics Committee – reference 24/SW/0103.

If you have any questions or there is anything you wish to discuss, please contact the Chief Investigator – **Dr Abi Hall**, [a.hall4@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:a.hall4@exeter.ac.uk)

The Sponsor for this study is the University of Exeter. The Sponsor representative is: Suzy Wignall, Senior Clinical Research Governance Manager, University Corporate Services,



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If you are not happy with any aspect of the project and wish to complain please contact **Dr Abi Hall**. Alternatively if you wish to contact someone outside the research team, please contact Suzy Wignall ([res-sponsor@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:res-sponsor@exeter.ac.uk)).

Thank you for your interest in the study