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Information Sheet

The relationship between thinking skills and daily functioning in adults with brain injuries: Part 1

You are invited to participate in a study being conducted by researchers from the University of Western Australia (UWA). The purpose of this study is to investigate how thinking skills following a brain injury (such as memory, concentration, or problem solving) may affect how well you function in areas such as engaging in work or hobbies, or remembering to take your medications without a pill organizer. We are looking at how these skills affect you right now as well as in the future. We hope to discover what types of thinking skills are most important in completing these sorts of day-to-day tasks amongst people with brain injuries, and how we can best measure these skills. This could perhaps one day help people who have brain injuries with their rehabilitation by offering strategies to help with these particular skills.

If you agree to participate, we will schedule an appointment with you at UWA or Brightwater Oats St to evaluate your thinking skills. This includes tasks such as remembering a list of words or copying a shape. This procedure, including face-to-face testing and completion of surveys takes about 4 hours which may be completed over 2 separate days (approximately 2 hours each day). You will have the opportunity to take breaks and we will make sure to explain the tasks fully and answer any questions that you have. We will offer you 20.00 AUD to cover the time taken to participate. If you are required to attend UWA for the assessment session, an additional 15.00 AUD will be provided to help pay for travel expenses such as lunch, petrol, and parking.

A video recording of the assessment may be taken for student training purposes. The recording will be treated as strictly confidential and may

only be viewed by the student trainees and their clinical supervisor. The recording will be permanently deleted after 14 days.

We will also ask you to complete some questionnaires. This includes asking you questions about any difficulties in thinking skills you feel you have, your home and social activities, your mood, and whether you drink alcohol.

We will also ask your case manager and a study partner some questions about you. Your study partner is someone who knows you well such as your spouse, a family member (for example, your brother, sister, parent, or adult child) or a close friend. We will ask your case manager and study partner questions about what difficulties *they* think you are having, and your functioning in your everyday life. This would take about 30 minutes of your study partner's time. If you believe that you don't have a person like this, or would rather not have a study partner, don't worry! It is not required for you to participate. We will also ask for your permission to look at some of your medical records so that we can get some information on the location and severity of your brain injury, your social and work background, and any treatment you have received for your brain injury.

As this project also looks at how your thinking skills affect your functioning in the future, we will ask you to come back in 3 months to assess your thinking again. We will also ask you to complete the same questionnaires you completed earlier. Your case manager and study partner (the same one as before) will also complete the questionnaires again. This allows us to see how things have changed over time.

If you would like us to, we can provide you with a brief report of how you went on our tests so that you and your case manager can get an idea of any strengths and weaknesses you might have with your thinking skills. If you would like to talk to us about how well you did, we are happy to schedule a session to give you or someone close to you some feedback.

Participation in this study is always completely voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time, and all records of your participation will be destroyed upon your request. Choosing to participate in this study (or choosing not to participate) will not affect the services you currently receive from care organizations.

Data collected in this research will be communicated to other researchers studying brain injuries, through published research articles and conference presentations.

The data may also be used in research projects completed by students who are learning to do research in this area. Data that are presented will only include very basic information (e.g., age and gender) and no one would be able to identify who you are from this information.

Importantly all of the data collected as part of this project will be kept confidential – that is, no one will be allowed to see it without your permission unless required by law. No information that can identify who you are will be kept with your study results. We will assign a code number (e.g., 001) to your results instead of your name so that you cannot be identified from your results. Only the chief researchers will have a list that can connect you with this code number so that we can match your results from one time to the next. This list will be kept secure in a locked office at UWA.

The Human Research Ethics Committee at The University of Western Australia requires that all participants are informed that, if they have any complaint regarding the manner in which a research project is conducted, this may be given to the Secretary, Human Research Ethics Committee, Registrar's Office, The University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009 (telephone 6488-3703).