

[\*\*\*Hospital letter head\*\*\*]

Local lead investigator: [\*\*\*local\_lead\*\*\*]

**ISARIC/WHO Clinical Characterisation Protocol**

**INFORMATION SHEET FOR CONSULTEE**

**VIRAL HAEMORHAGIC FEVER INFECTION**

**04 March 2016, Version 7.2**

The International Severe Acute Respiratory and Emerging Infection Consortium (ISARIC) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) are undertaking a research study involving people with severe infections including the Viral Haemorrhagic Fever Ebolavirus.

We are asking you about the participation of an individual who is not able to consent for themselves, because he/she lacks the legal capacity to do so. To help decide if he/she should join the study, we would like to ask your opinion whether or not he/she could be involved.

Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for the participant. Please take time to read this information carefully. One of our team will go through the information with you. Please ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information and time to decide. Your decision is completely voluntary. The decision you make will not affect the participant's care or treatment in any way.

**What is the study about?**

Infectious diseases affect millions of people around the world every year. Most cases are mild, but some people become very unwell. There is a great deal that we do not understand about existing infections, and new infectious diseases continue to appear. This research study will gain important information about respiratory infections so we can try to find better ways to manage and treat them in the future.

**What will happen if the patient takes part in this study?**

We will first collect information from the participant routine clinical records such as participant’s signs and symptoms, medications that he/she is taking, and the results of any blood test and laboratory results that doctors have ordered when hospitalise. This will happen every day while the participant is in hospital.

If you agreed, samples will be collected which are in addition to what would normally be collected for the participant's medical care.

On some days extra blood will be collected for research analysis. This would only be taken when blood is being taken for clinical reasons, and then only with the approval of the attending clinicians. The patient will never have additional venesection (blood draws) taken only for research while in isolation.

The extra blood collected will be at most 15mls (3 teaspoons) on any day.

After the patient leaves the isolation unit they may have additional blood samples taken only for research.

We are asking for this extra blood for research to be collected within the first 24hours of admission, then every second day over the next eleven days, and then once every week for as long as you are unwell up to a maximum of 100 days. We will also invite the patient to go to a hospital or clinic convenient to you in 3 months and then again at 6 months to have one blood sample taken.

When any samples of blood, urine, stool or respiratory secretions are taken for normal care, and if there is any sample leftover after the tests requested by your doctors are done, we will store what is left over for research purposes.

**What will happen to the samples and information?**

All information about the participant will be kept confidential – anonymised - by those working on this study, the patient name will not be used in any reports about this study. The results of the study will be shared as quickly as possible with health authorities, and doctors to help them treat patients with VHF Ebolavirus.

If samples are taken, we will use the blood samples to look at how the body fights the infection and how treatments given to the participant work in the body. We will also use the blood sample to analyse the participant's DNA. We will examine the participant's DNA together with DNA from many other people to try to find out what makes some people more likely to get an infection. Some of the tests may be done in different countries.

All information about the participant will be handled in confidence and only the people responsible for the participant's care and for this study will know that the participant were a part of the study. We will review the participant's medical records and keep limited information about the participant on a secure file. All information and samples will be labelled only with a number so that they cannot be directly linked to the participant personally. With your permission, we would also like to store the participant's samples and use them for future ethically approved medical research. The data and samples collected during this study may be looked at by regulatory authorities, authorized individuals from University of Oxford, from the NHS Trust(s) or public health agencies.

The participant’s GP will be informed of they are taking part in this study.

**Are there any benefits to taking part in this study?**

There is no benefit to the participant personally. The information gained from this study may not be available in time to affect the participant's care. Any results available while the participant is in hospital will be given to your treating doctor. The information we learn may help in caring for other patients in the future.

**What are the risks of being in the study?**

If the participant takes part in the study and only clinical data is collected from the routine medical records there is a minimum risk, all information will be used anonymously (no one will know that this belonged to the participant).

If agreed to collect samples, being a part of this study means that more samples will be taken than are needed for normal care. Whenever possible these samples will be taken at the same time as regular samples to reduce the extra procedures. There is a risk of pain or irritation when samples are taken.

When DNA testing is done, there is a small chance that the results will show a genetic condition that could affect the participant's future health. Since the tests will be conducted anonymously, no-one on the study team will know that such a result applies to the participant, and in any case there is usually considerable uncertainty about the implications of any research DNA test result for individual health. For these reasons we would not attempt to identify the participant or inform the participant of any results from DNA testing.

**Who is responsible and what if something goes wrong?**

The research is organised by the University of Oxford with the support of collaborators at this hospital, none of who will benefit financially from the study It has been reviewed and given a favourable opinion by Oxford C Research Ethics Committee (Ref 13/SC/0149).

The University has arrangements in place to provide for harm arising from participation in the study for which the University is the Research Sponsor. NHS indemnity operates in respect of the clinical treatment with which you are provided. [\*\*\*insert sponsor and contact details\*\*\*]

**Can I request that I be withdrawn from the study at any point?**

Yes, you or the participant can withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without affecting the participant's care. Any data and samples that have not already been analysed can be withdraw/destroyed anytime you or the participant request it.

**What if I have any problems or would like further information about the study?**

If you would like more information about the study you can contact the Lead Investigator in your hospital [\*\*\*local\_lead\*\*\*] or telephone the study coordinator’s office on [\*\*\*phone\_number\*\*\*].