Access to Virtual Technology and a Social Skills Enhancement Intervention

IRB assigned number: 21.0468
Sponsor Name and address: University of Louisville School of Nursing, Lou., Ky 40292
Investigator Name, Degree, University Dept and Address: Karen M Robinson, PhD, RN, FAAN, U of L School of Nursing, Lou., Ky.

Dear Participant:

You are being invited to participate in a research study to test the feasibility of a virtually accessed Social Skills Enhancement Intervention. Participation in this study will first involve answering initial questionnaire items, whose responses will be used to determine eligibility to continue participating. Those eligible will then be asked to continue participating for approximately 5 months. If you continue to participate, you will have the following procedures occur while you are in this study:

-All communication will be virtual. A research assistant will assist you to access virtual interviews and education.
-Pretest and post-test interviews will last approximately one hour each. During each interview you will be asked questions about yourself, your chronic illness, the help you receive, your overall social network, and your feelings about your social support.
-Social Skills Enhancement Intervention education will occur in two meetings of two hours each. Your participation in this study is voluntary and you may decline to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable.

There are no known risks for your participation in this research study. The information collected may not benefit you directly. The information learned in this study may be helpful to others. The information you provide will determine a better understanding of your chronic illness and how to manage it. Additional benefits of the social skills enhancement intervention may be decreased loneliness which is the primary goal of the intervention. Data collected during this study will be stored in a locked file cabinet in a secure office with no access except to the research team. Participation in all study procedures is expected to last approximately 5 months.

Individuals from the School of Nursing, the Institutional Review Board (IRB), the Human Subjects Protection Program Office (HSPPO), and other regulatory agencies may inspect these records. In all other respects, however, the data will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Should the data be published, your identity will not be disclosed.

Taking part in this study is voluntary. By answering the initial questionnaire items you convey your consent to participate in this research study. You do not have to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable you may choose not to take part at all. If you decide to be in this study you may stop taking part at any time. If you decide not to be in this study or if you stop taking part at any time, you will not lose any benefits for which you may qualify.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research subject, you may call the Human Subjects Protection Program Office at (502) 852-5188. You can discuss any questions about your rights as a research subject, in private, with a member of the Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB is an independent committee made up of people from the University community, staff of the institutions, as well as people from the community not connected with these institutions. The IRB has reviewed this research study.

If you have any questions, concerns, or complaints about the research study, please contact: ***Karen M Robinson, PhD, RN, FAAN at 502-852-8512.***

If you have concerns or complaints about the research or research staff and you do not wish to give your name, you may call 1-877-852-1167. This is a 24 hour hot line answered by people who do not work at the University of Louisville.

Sincerely,

Karen M Robinson, PhD, RN, FAAN