

Focus Group Invitation

(for rheumatoid arthritis patients)

Dear potential research participant,

I am writing to you to invite you to participate in a research study funded by the Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatology Care: *'Optimizing early treatment strategies in early RA through shared decision-making'*. This study is being run out of the Division of Rheumatology at the Department of Medicine, University of Calgary. The main goal of this study is to learn about how to use a patient decision aid to help people with early rheumatoid arthritis (RA) make treatment choices. A decision aid is a tool that helps people become involved in decision making by making explicit the decision that needs to be made, providing information about the options and outcomes, and by clarifying personal values.

I would like to invite you to be a part of a focus group for patients with rheumatoid arthritis. We are hoping you will share your knowledge and experience as a patient to help us learn how to best to support patients with RA as they make decisions about their treatment. We would use what we learn in the focus groups to improve the patient decision aids and how they are used in clinic.

Participation is voluntary and there are no risks to you if you join the study. While you might not directly get anything out of joining the study, you might like having a chance to talk about your care and treatment decisions and helping us figure out how to make the experience better for other patients. You will be asked to fill out a consent form before you begin the study.

If you have any questions about this study or wish to participate, please contact Nicole Spencer at 403-210-8105 or nicole.spencer@ucalgary.ca.

This study has been approved by the University of Calgary Conjoint Health Research Ethics Board (REB16-0556)

Sincerely,

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