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**Understanding shared decision making about major surgery:  
a qualitative study**

*Invitation letter for patients eligible to take part in Phase 1*  
19<sup>th</sup> November 2018, version 1.0

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Dear Sir / Madam,

We are a research team from the University of Oxford. We are studying how patients like yourself, and doctors, make decisions about whether or not major surgery is the right option for them. This study is part of a very large research programme, funded by the National Institute of Health Research, designed to make it easier for patients and doctors to arrive at the best decision possible about surgery.

The research is led by a professor and conducted by trained researchers. We want to interview people who are contemplating major surgery. We would also like to video record and/or observe one of your consultations to see how you and your doctors discuss options and consider the decision regarding surgery.

You do not have to agree to take part in this research. If you decline then that decision will not affect your care. You can invite whoever you want to be with you when the researcher interviews you and when you have the consultation.

You do not need to make a decision straight away. You have received this letter, along with a copy of our information sheet, because you have expressed an interest in participating in the research. You have agreed that the clinical team can pass your contact details to the research team who will be in touch with you within the next 7 days. If you are happy to talk with us then we will discuss the research with you and answer any questions that you have about the research and what your participation would mean. You will not need to decide straight away. We encourage you to discuss with family and friends, and/or one of your clinicians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Professor Sara Shaw  
(Professor in charge of this research study)