



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

Invitation letter for surgeons eligible to take part in Phase 1
19th November 2018, version 1.0

Dear Sir / Madam,

We are a research team from the University of Oxford. We are studying how doctors like yourself, and patients, make decisions about whether or not major surgery is the right option. This study is part of a six-year 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 based at the University of Oxford and conducted by trained researchers. We want to identify up to five patients who are contemplating major surgery and talk to them, as well as with members of the clinical team who are providing their care, about this process. We would also like to video or audio record one consultation with each patient to see how you and your patients discuss options and consider the decision regarding surgery.

You do not have to agree to take part in this research. 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 [Principal Investigator local PI](#) at your hospital 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. [Once we have confirmed that you would like to take part we will invite you to participate in the video-recording of your consultation \(with patient consent\) and to participate in two interviews about that patient care, one immediately after the consultation and one follow-up interview 3 – 6 months later. Interviews will take no more than 40 minutes.](#) You will not need to decide straight away. We encourage you to discuss with your clinical team.

Thank you for your consideration.

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