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

*Invitation letter for anaesthetists and specialist nurses 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 clinicians 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 have already identified one or more patients who are contemplating major surgery. We now want to talk to them, as well as with members of the clinical team who are providing their care, about this process. We also plan to video or audio record one consultation with each patient (likely with the surgeon) to see how clinicians and patients discuss options and make a 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 are involved in providing care for a patient who is involved in the research and have expressed an interest in participating. If you are happy to talk with us then we can 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 two interviews about each patient who has been recruited to this study (with that patient's consent). One interview will take place immediately after the consultation we will have recorded and one will take place 3-6 months afterwards. Interviews will take no more than 40 minutes. You will not need to decide straight away. We encourage you to discuss this with your clinical team.

Thank you for your consideration.

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