**ICANEQUAL: Reducing inequalities in treatment allocation and cancer care for those diagnosed with liver cancer.**

**Delegate information leaflet**

**What is the ICANEQUAL partnership all about?**

Liver cancer is the fifth most common cancer worldwide and the number of people being diagnosed with, and dying from, liver cancer has increased over the past 10 years. Early diagnosis and timely and appropriate treatment are known to improve results for patients. However, in the UK, not all liver cancer patients get a timely diagnosis and access to the best treatment. When this happens, patients have poorer quality of life, and reduced chances of survival. These inequalities in access affect underserved groups such as people experiencing social disadvantage or living in remote and rural communities. Currently we don’t fully understand why these inequalities exist, and until we understand more about how and why they arise, they will be very difficult to reduce.

The purpose of this partnership is to build a Community of Expertise ( a group of individuals who share interest in liver cancer) through conversations with key stakeholders. This will enable us to develop the understanding needed to reduce inequalities in liver cancer diagnosis and treatment. We will work closely with charities, community groups and patient groups such as the British Liver Trust, Egality Health, Can-Survive UK, BME Cancer Communities and the Wai Yin Society. This partnership will include communities that typically do not participate in liver cancer research but are most impacted by the current inequalities. Our public and patient partners will be involved in the design and conduct of the partnership, as well as any subsequent research.

**Why have I been invited?**

You have been invited to join the ICANEQUAL partnership as you have been identified as a key stakeholder in the field of liver cancer research/treatment. We would like to hear your views on liver cancer diagnosis and treatment.

**Do I have to take part?**

No. It is up to you to decide whether to join the ICANEQUAL partnership. If you decide to join and become a member of the ICANEQUAL partnership, you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. If you decide to join you will be asked to:

* Take part in workshops to discuss your views and/or experience related to liver cancer.
* Agree to follow the ICANEQUAL partnership principles of engagement.
* Complete a consent form for your participation in the workshops.

**What happens next?**

We will bring together key stakeholders in a series of three ICANEQUAL workshops. These workshops will be conducted between September 2023 and February 2024. Names and affiliation of all delegates will be circulated prior to the workshops. First workshop on **Sept 25, 2023** and second workshop on **Nov 27,** **2023** will be conducted virtually and the third workshop on **Feb 26**, **2024** will be in-person. While we hope that you can participate in all three workshops, you are free to participate in only one or two of them if that is preferable for you.

**What happens in the workshop?**

Each workshop will have 15 - 30 delegates; with 5-10 representatives from each stakeholder group. The workshop conversations will be audio-recorded and only people able to hear will be your fellow delegates at the workshops, the partnership management team and an approved transcriber. The guided group conversations at the workshops will be focused on:

* Identifying different ways to deliver liver cancer care’ better and identify gaps in research evidence for under-served populations.
* Building a shared understanding of potential solutions and the barriers and facilitators to achieving change
* Highlighting the gaps in existing knowledge and prioritise research questions / projects to improve the liver cancer care pathway.

**How will the outcomes be used?**

Through these conversations, we will find out where liver cancer diagnosis and treatment allocation fails under-served groups, and therefore how we can improve care. We will share our findings with our workshop delegates, the British Liver Trust, Egality, Can-Survive UK, BME Cancer Communities and Wai Yin Society through public engagement activities and publications in relevant medical journals.

**What are the benefits of joining these conversations ?**

By joining this partnership and participating in the workshops, you will be helping us to understand issues from the perspectives of a healthcare professional and helping future research in liver cancer.

Your suggestions will help to strengthen the evidence base regarding what equitable and appropriate care looks like across the UK, help us to understand patient experiences of the current clinical pathway and work towards developing, piloting and evaluating an ‘optimal’ new liver cancer care clinical pathway.

**What are the disadvantages of joining these conversations?**

You will be asked to spare about 10 hours of your time for three ICANEQUAL workshops and potential travel. All travel and related expenses for the in-person workshop will be covered.

**What do I do now?**

If you would like to join the ICANEQUAL Partnership, please contact Dr Sheela Tripathee Sheela.tripathee@abdn.ac.uk . You will be guided on how to participate in the planned workshops and developmental work.

**Who do I speak to if I have questions about this?**

If you have any questions, you can contact the team using the details below:

Partnership Coordinator: Dr Sheela Tripathee

Tel: 01224 438127 Email: Sheela.tripathee@abdn.ac.uk

or

Partnership Lead: Professor Sara Jane MacLennan

Tel: +44 (0)1224 438125 Email: s.maclennan@abdn.ac.uk

or

Partnership Co-lead: Mr Mohamed Bekheit Email: mohamed.bekheit@nhs.scot