



## Online Bipolar Education Study

### Additional Information

#### Benefits and risks of participation

By participating in the study, you will have access to a large body of information from experts in bipolar disorder. You may benefit directly or indirectly by learning to take control of your bipolar disorder through education and self-management. However, we cannot and do not guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from this study. There may be some sensitive issues, but the information you enter is completely confidential. The risk of causing distress is low, however adverse reactions to information obtained may be unavoidable in a small number of cases.

The online education program is not a management or treatment program. It is designed to complement your treatment with a mental health professional and is not a replacement for it. In taking part in this education program, you are required to have a managing health professional whom you see regularly. Whilst every attempt has been taken to provide accurate and helpful information, the University of New South Wales and its staff cannot accept responsibility for your clinical care, or for any decision or action taken in association with information in the research program. **Should an emergency arise or you become distressed, you must contact your clinician, phone Lifeline on 13 11 14 or the crisis call number of your closest hospital.**

#### Voluntary participation

Taking part in this study is entirely voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate will not prejudice your future relations with The University. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without prejudice. If you wish to stop the study, send an email via the Contact Us section of the website, or complete the Withdrawal of Consent section of the form below and mail it to us. Because the benefits of the program are designed to be gained over the long term, we will send you email reminders to log on to the program unless we receive an email from you advising that you wish to withdraw from the study

## **Privacy policy**

All information entered into these programs (including the initial screening questionnaire) will be completely confidential. It will be encrypted and stored in a secure password-protected online database for the period of the research. After this, the data will be stored on password-protected CD-ROMs. In line with regulations for research by the UNSW Human Ethics Committee, any information obtained in connection with this study and that can be identified with you will remain confidential and will be disclosed only with your permission or except as required by law. If you give us your permission by clicking the “I Accept” box, we plan to publish the study results in academic conferences and papers. In any publication, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

We recommend that you use an anonymous email address for the research study, in order to protect your privacy. If your existing email address contains too much information (such as your whole name), you might like to set up a new email address, using one of the freely available online email services, eg gmail.com, hotmail.com or yahoo.com.au

The security of your personal information is important to us. We use a third party web-based service operated by QuestionPro in the USA for conducting surveys. The data remains controlled by us. QuestionPro follows generally accepted industry standards to protect personal information and uses secure socket layer technology. More information on QuestionPro and their Privacy Policy is available on their website at [www.questionpro.com](http://www.questionpro.com). However, no method of transmission over the internet, or method of electronic storage is 100% secure. Therefore, while we strive to use commercially acceptable means to protect your personal information, we cannot guarantee its absolute security. By using this service you understand that we use the QuestionPro service and consent to the transfer of relevant data to the USA based system. We also encourage you to take responsibility for the security of your own computer system.

Thanks for your involvement and support!