

Thank you for your interest in the 2018 NPIN Evaluation. Before you decide whether to agree to be in this study (focus group), please read this form and provide your consent below.

Introduction: This study is being conducted by Schlesinger Group. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is sponsoring this information collection.

What is the purpose of this study? The purpose of this effort is to learn about your awareness, perceptions, and use of NPIN services from public health professionals like you who use the platform. We want to hear your views and opinions on NPIN in order to make it a stronger service and to better meet your prevention resource needs.

Why am I being asked to be in this study? We are asking you to be in this study because you work in public health and have engaged with NPIN. We want to get feedback from public health professionals like you who engage with NPIN.

How long will you need me? If you are asked to participate in a subsequent focus group, we expect it to last about 90 to 120 minutes.

What is going to happen during the study? You will participate in a focus group. At the focus groups where we will ask you a series of open-ended questions about NPIN and listen to your responses. Some people who are working on the study will take notes during the focus group. Also, we plan to record what you say on an audio recording. The audio will help us learn more about what is said by all of you.

What do you want me to do if I decide to be in this study? During the focus group, you will be asked to tell us your thoughts and opinions of CDC's National Prevention Information Network or NPIN. We will also ask about your needs for prevention resources for HIV/AIDs, viral hepatitis, STDs, TB, and adolescent sexual health.

Are there any risks to me if I decide to be in this study? There is low risk to you if you decide to be in this study. You may feel uneasy or have some concerns in providing negative opinions about NPIN. You do not have to respond to any questions you do not want to in the focus group.

Are there any benefits from being in this study? By being in this study you will help CDC's NPIN to improve how it provides prevention resources and services to public health professionals who work the disease areas of HIV/AIDs, viral hepatitis, STDs, TB, and adolescent sexual health information.

Will the things I tell you be kept private? What you tell us will be kept private to the extent allowed by law. The things you tell us during the focus group will be kept secure by the research staff. We will safeguard your identity and information that you supply.

What is going to happen with the audio recordings of the focus groups? After the focus group, a person working on the study will listen to the audio recordings and take notes on what was said by each person. Within these notes, the person will identify participants as "person 1",

“person 2,” “person 3” and so on. Only the people working on the study will be able to listen to the audio recordings. At the end of the study, we will delete the recordings and discard the notes.

What will you do with the audio recordings of the focus groups? The audio recordings and notes from the focus groups will be used to inform NPIN’s strategy for supporting public health professionals that work in the areas of HIV/AIDs, viral hepatitis, STDs, TB, and adolescent sexual health. We will develop reports that will be used at CDC. We will share our findings with the people working on NPIN. These people will review the focus group reports to help us understand what we have found. At no time, will anyone be able to know what you said or that you were in this study from anything that we write. We will also share our findings with you if you would like. You may also have a copy of any of the reports by getting in touch with us or giving us a number where we can call you.

Is there any cost if I take part in this study? The only cost to you for being in this study is your time for coming here today.

Is there any payment if I take part in this study? There is no payment for taking part in this study, although if you participate in a focus group you will receive a token of appreciation of \$75.

Who should I call if I have questions about this study or think I may have gotten sick or been harmed by this study? If you have any questions about this study or your rights for being in this study, you may call Dr. Leigh Willis, 404-639-8447, or the CDC Institutional Review Board at 1-800-584-8814.

Do I have to be in this study? You do not have to be in this study, it is up to you if you want to or not. You can stop being in this study at any time without any penalty or loss of benefits.

Do you have any further questions about this study?

Please print and sign your name below if you agree to be in this study and have your comments recorded during the focus group. By signing your name you also agree that you have read this form and have had a chance to ask any questions you may have about the study. You will be given a copy of this consent form for you to take with you.

Print your Name

Date

Sign your Name

Date

Will you allow us to keep your contact information so we can provide you the results of the focus group? Circle yes or no.

Yes No (Please do not contact me again)

I observed the process of consent. The prospective participant read or was read this form, was given the chance to ask questions, appeared to accept the answers, and signed to enroll in the study.

Signature of Research Staff

Date