

# Information Sheet for Participating Pharmacies

(Covers: KAP Questionnaire, In Depth Interviews and Focus Group Discussion)

**Study title: Management of microbial keratitis by private pharmacies and traditional healers in Nepal: a study of knowledge, attitude and practice**

## INTRODUCTION

My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am working at the Eye Department at Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospitals, Lahan, Nepal.

Your facility is being invited to take part in a medical research study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read or listen to the following information carefully and to talk to others about the study, if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

### ***What is this study about?***

Infection of the clear part of the front of the eye (the cornea) is called microbial keratitis and is an important cause of blindness worldwide. A scratch in the cornea allows infection to enter the surface of the eye, and a corneal ulcer begins. As the infection progresses, the cornea can become severely affected, and sometimes can even become thinned. Often after it has been treated and healed the cornea is left with a scar that stops the eye from seeing.

There is very little information about this eye problem. Currently, this disease process is only poorly understood and the existing treatments for it are only partially effective. One of the key challenges has been delayed presentation of patients and barriers along the referral system. Usually, when patients present late, the outcome is almost always poor.

As part of this study we are trying to develop ways of strengthening the health system to be able to detect, treat and promptly refer patients with this condition in order to improve outcomes.

### ***Whose help do we need?***

We are inviting selection of different pharmacies within Siraha District to provide us information on their experiences in managing this condition, challenges and suggestions on how it can be improved.

### ***What will we ask you to do?***

If your pharmacy agrees to participate, we will use a questionnaire to ask you a series of questions about your facility, staffing, workload, equipment, consumables and drug stocks.

In addition, we will invite a smaller number of the pharmacy workers to have a more in depth interview with one of our team to discuss in more detail about your experiences of treating patients with this condition and any challenges faced. Not all people who agree to join the study will be asked to do this.

Finally, you may be selected and invited for a group discussion with other pharmacy attendants to share your experiences and views on different aspects which could relate to this condition and suggestions on what we can all do to improve this situation. Not all people who agree to join the study will be asked to do this.

During the process of the interviews, we may request to take some photographs of the interview process or your facility for purposes of context, feel free to deny permission if this makes you uncomfortable in any way and this will not have any impact on the interview.

### ***Do I have to take part in this study?***

You do not have to take part in this study, it is entirely voluntary. If you do not want to participate in the study, this will not affect your facility in any way. You may withdraw your consent for this examination at any time.

***What benefits are there to taking part in the study?***

It is only poorly understood how this disease causes blindness and the role of the health system in improving outcomes. Although you will not receive any direct benefits, will be helping us by sharing your experiences and suggestions on how the pharmacists can work with the health system to improve access to timely care for people with this disease.

At the end of participating in this study, we will provide information on the management of this disease.

***Are there any risks caused by taking part in the study?***

There is no known risk from you participating in this study and any information you give to use will not be used in any way to harm you. We do not expect that you will experience any harm by taking part in this interview. However, some of the questions may be sensitive and you may feel uncomfortable to discuss them. You can stop the interview or withdraw from the interview if you feel uncomfortable. At the end of participating in this study, you will receive some information resources on the management of this disease that may help clarify some of the questions you might have about recognising this condition and how to refer. Our staff may give you some feedback on some areas of knowledge on this disease if necessary.

***What will happen to the records?***

All the information we collect will be kept confidential. It will be kept securely and only the people organising the study will have access to it. An electronic version of the records will be stored on a password protected computer in our hospital office and deposited on a secure online data repository. All personal and your pharmacy identifying information will be removed before uploading this data.

These records will be analysed with a computer system to be able understand the level of knowledge and how pharmacy attendants manage people with microbial keratitis. Results will be published if possible and reported to doctors in Uganda and neighbouring countries who treat people with corneal infections.

***What if relevant new information becomes available?***

It is not anticipated that new information will become available during the course of this short study.

***What if something goes wrong?***

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this through Dr Reena Yadav.

***What will happen to the results of the research study?***

The results of the study will be published if possible and reported to doctors in Nepal and neighbouring countries who treat people with corneal infections.

***Who is organising the research?***

This research is being done jointly by Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospitals, Lahan, Nepal, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK.

***Who has reviewed the study?***

This study was reviewed and approved by Nepal Health Research Council (NHRC), Nepal and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Ethics Committee.

***Contact Details***

For further information about the study please contact:

**Dr Reena Yadav:** Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospitals, Lahan, Nepal, [Tel:+ 977-9808070069](tel:+977-9808070069),  
[email: reena.yadav@erec-p.org](mailto:reena.yadav@erec-p.org)

**Prof. Matthew Burton:** T +44 20 7636 8636, email: [matthew.burton@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.burton@lshtm.ac.uk)

You will be given a copy of the information sheet and a signed consent form to keep.

**Thank you for considering taking the time to read this sheet.**

## INFORMED CONSENT FORM

**Study title: Management of microbial keratitis by private pharmacies and traditional healers in Nepal: a study of knowledge, attitude and practice Management of microbial keratitis by private pharmacies and traditional healers in Nepal: a study of knowledge, attitude and practice (KAP)**

**Study ID Number:**

**Name of Nepal Principal Investigator: Reena Yadav**

**Please  
initial box**

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the participant information sheet dated ..... (version .....) for the above study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these answered fully.	
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason, without my medical care or legal rights being affected.	
3. I understand that data collected during the study may be looked at by responsible individuals from Sagarmatha Choudhary Eye Hospitals, Lahan, Nepal and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, from regulatory authorities or from this hospital, where it is relevant to my taking part in this research. I understand that the information will be kept confidential. It will be kept securely and only the people organising the study will have access to it. An electronic version of the records will be stored on a password protected computer in our hospital office and deposited on a secure online data repository. All my personal and facility identifying information will be removed before uploading this data. These records will be analysed with a computer system to be able understand the level of knowledge and how pharmacy attendants manage people with microbial keratitis. Results will be published if possible and reported to doctors in Nepal and neighbouring countries who treat people with corneal infections.	
4. I agree to have our pharmacy take part in the KAP Questionnaire component of this study.	
5. I agree to have our pharmacy take part in the In Depth Interview component of this study.	
6. I agree to have our pharmacy take part in the Focus Group Discussion component of this study.	
7. I agree for the photographs of our pharmacy/infrastructure may to be used in the publication or report released on the study. I understand that if consent is withdrawn, it may not be possible to delete all copies of photographs which have been published online.	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Health centre  
(printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and Signature of In-Charge

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Person taking consent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

The participant is unable to sign. As a witness, I confirm that all the information about the study was given and the participant consented to taking part.

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Name of Impartial Witness  
(if required)

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Signature

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Date

*1 copy for participant; 1 copy for Principal Investigator; 1 copy to be kept with hospital notes*