



Department of Family Practice

Women in2 Healing

Room D204A

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CONSENT FORM

WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED IN THIS RESEARCH?

Women in2 Healing is part of a larger research team that includes Dr Ruth Elwood Martin, Alison Granger-Brown (Recreation Therapist), UBC researchers, community agencies, health policy makers, funding agencies. Previously incarcerated women may join the research team as ‘community-based peer researchers’. You will find a complete list of all persons, and their research interests and expertise, on the Webpage <http://www.womenin2healing.org>

HOW WILL THIS RESEARCH BE DONE?

The goal of the research project is to give voice to women released from prison, so they will guide all aspects of the research: asking the questions; gathering the data; analyzing the data; presenting new knowledge; thinking about what it all means; designing new policies/ideas for change. This type of research is sometimes called ‘**community-based participatory research**’ (or CBPR).

All women of *Women in2 Healing* are central and essential to this project! The hope is that the CBPR process will lead to improved health and lives of women, when they leave prison and return to their home communities.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE RESEARCH INFORMATION THAT IS COLLECTED?

All research team members (including the community-based peer researchers) may have access to any or all of the research data (such as, audio-recordings of minutes of research team meetings, health research forums, interviews and focus groups, questionnaire results, analysis results, etc). Data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics (numbers) and for common themes or narratives (words). The results of the research may be presented at conferences or forums by women participatory researchers and/or other members of the research team. The results may be published in scientific journals, Webpages or scientific magazines. All data will be stored in a password-protected computer in the *Women in2 Healing* Department of Family Practice office, at BC Women's Hospital, for at least 5 years. All paper data will be stored in a locked filing cabinet in the Women in2 Healing office for at least 5 years. If the data is eventually destroyed (after 5 years), all paper will be shredded and all electronic data will be demagnetized.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THE WOMEN IN2 HEALING PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH PROJECT IS IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN IN PRISON?

Some women say that the experience of being a member of the participatory health research team has changed them. For example, some women say that they learn new skills, they gain more health knowledge, more self knowledge and more self confidence. Many women hope that these changes will result in them leading healthier lives and not returning to prison.

The *Women in2 Healing* participatory research team would like to use 'pooled anonymous data' to find out if women prison leavers who work as community-based peer researchers come back to prison less often and have fewer admissions to hospital than other women prison leavers in BC. By writing your name and DOB and your PHN (personal health number) if you remember it, we would gather pooled information from the BC Corrections

admission database (including dates and lengths of incarcerations; length of sentence) and from the BC linked health database (including dates of visits to hospitals; length of time hospitalized; diagnosis at time of hospitalization; medications recorded in Pharmanet; numbers of visits to physicians.). The BC Corrections admission database is the information that the Corrections officer records every time a woman is arrested, such as: age, education, sentence length, ethnicity, etc. The BC Linked Health Database is pooled health data that the BC Ministry of Health keeps regarding hospital emergency visits and admissions to hospital.

The *Women in2 Healing* research team would then compare the number of times that all community-based peer researchers return to prison and go to hospital/emergency, over the next 10 years, with the number of times that all women in BC return to prison or go to hospital/emergency, over the same time period.

In addition, we would like to show that *Women in2 Healing* will result in financial savings for the government, Corrections and society. We will consult a financial advisor to help us with this analysis. If women prison leavers are healthier and are volunteering as community-based peer researchers to improve the health of others, they will be doing less crime, going to hospital less often and returning to prison less often. We would like to prove that it is cost effective for society, corrections and the government to support *Women in2 Healing*.

MY SIGNATURE BELOW

By signing below, I indicate that I have read the material in the orientation package, that I have had my questions answered if I did not understand anything and that my decision to join the *Women in2 Healing* participatory health research team is entirely voluntary.

By signing below I indicate that I have received a copy of this consent form for my records.

I also agree that Dr Martin and the *Women in2 Healing* research team may contact me, up to four times a year until 2028, to invite me to participate in an interview or a questionnaire related to this research project. I understand that I can refuse to participate in the interview or questionnaire. I also understand that I am free to leave the *Women in2 Healing* project at any time without any penalty or consequences to me.

Signed _____

Printed name: _____

Date: ____D/____M/____Y

The best way to contact me is:

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Mailing address: _____

Is there another contact person (family, friend, street nurse, etc.)?

CONSENT TO DATA LINKAGE

By signing below, I understand that the *Women in2 Healing* project will use my name and date of birth to gather information from the Corrections admissions database and the BC Linked Health Database. This will be done several times until 2028 to see how the *Women in2 Healing* project impacts the frequency that women return to prison and go to hospital or emergency. I understand that all information will be pooled together so that no one will know that I am part of this research data analysis.

CONSENT TO ACCESS THE CORRECTIONS ADMISSIONS DATA BASE:

By signing below, I agree that Dr Martin and the Research Team may use my name and date of birth to gather information from the Corrections admissions database, provided that Corrections Services agrees to provide access to this database. This information will

be used to see how my health and healing, and my involvement with Women in2 Healing, relates to the number of times I return to prison and to my sentence lengths. I understand that all information will be pooled together, with no names being used, so that no one will know that I am part of this research data analysis.

Signed _____

Printed name: _____ Date: ____D/____M/____Y

CONSENT TO ACCESS THE BC LINKED HEALTH DATABASE:

By signing below, I agree that Dr Martin and the Research Team may use my name and date of birth and Personal Health Number (if I can remember it) to gather information from the BC Linked Health Database (provided that BC Linked Database agrees to this). This information will be used to see how my health and healing, and my involvement with Women in2 Healing, relates to the number of times that I return to prison and to my sentence lengths. I understand that all information will be pooled together, with no names being used, so that no one will know that I am part of this research data analysis.

My PHN (personal health number) if I can remember it _____

Signed _____

Printed name: _____ Date: ____D/____M/____Y

GOOD LUCK and welcome to an exciting self-discovery.
With Thanks,
Women in2 Healing Participatory Health Research Project