INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Ethical Clearance Reference Number：MRSU-24/25-50263

YOU WILL BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS INFORMATION SHEET

Title of study

A UK-based survey exploring critical care dietitians' practices in the nutritional management of critically ill patients receiving vasopressors and artificial nutrition support

Invitation Paragraph

You are invited to take part in a research project that forms part of my MSc Nutrition dissertation at King's College London. Before you decide whether you would like to take part, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with colleagues if you wish. Feel free to contact the research team if anything is unclear or you would like more information.

Participation is completely voluntary. Once you have completed the survey, you will be given the option to be entered into a draw to win a £100 voucher.

What is the purpose of the study?

The study aims to describe current dietetic practice in relation to artificial nutrition support for patients in UK intensive care units (ICUs) who are receiving vasopressors. By identifying perceived barriers and facilitators to undertaking artificial nutrition support in this patient group as well as confidence levels of critical care dietitians in treating these patients, we hope to identify knowledge gaps that can guide future clinical research.

Why have I been invited to take part?

You are being invited to participate in this study because you are a registered dietitian with at least six months' experience, working at least one day per week in a UK adult ICU.

What will happen if I take part?

If you agree to take part, you will be asked to complete a surveys anonymously. The survey will ask you questions about your background, clinical dietetic practice and confidence in providing nutritional support to critically ill patients receiving vasopressors. The survey(s) will take you approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. There are 32 mandatory questions in total, with a mix of single-choice, multiple-choice, free-text, and matrix-format confidence/agreement questions.

Do I have to take part?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only take part if you want to and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in anyway. If you choose to take part you will be asked to provide your consent. To do this, you will be asked to indicate that you have read and understand the information provided and that you consent to your anonymous data being used for the purposes explained.
You are free to withdraw at any point during completion of the survey, without having to give a reason. Withdrawing from the study will not affect you in any way. Once you

submit the survey, it will no longer be possible to withdraw from the study because the data will be fully anonymous. Please do not include any personal identifiable information in your responses.

What are the possible risks of taking part?
There are no anticipated risks besides the small amount of time required. Some questions may prompt reflection on challenging clinical decisions.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?
Although you may not benefit directly, your input will help better understand dietetic practices in patients requiring vasopressors and artificial nutrition support to guide further research in the future

Data handling and confidentiality
The survey is anonymous. This means that nobody, including the researchers, will be aware of your identity, and that nobody will be able to connect you to the answers you provide, even indirectly. Your answers will nevertheless be treated confidentially and the information you provide will not allow you to be identified in any research outputs/publications.

What will happen to the results of the study?
The results of the study will be summarised in contributing to the researcher's MSc dissertation and may be submitted for publication in peer-reviewed journals and professional conferences. Only aggregated, anonymous data will be reported.

Who should I contact for further information?
If you have any questions or require more information about this study, please contact the research team using the following contact details:

Researcher: Ms Qinglin Jin (MSc Nutrition student) – K24023138@kcl.ac.uk

Primary supervisor: Ms Terpsi Karpasiti – terpsichori.karpasiti@kcl.ac.uk
Co-supervisors: Dr Danielle Bear – danielle.e.bear@kcl.ac.uk; Professor Kevin Whelan – kevin.whelan@kcl.ac.uk

What if I have further questions, or if something goes wrong?
If this study has harmed you in any way, or if you wish to make a complaint about the conduct of the study you can contact King's College London using the details below for further advice and information:

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The Chair, King's College London Minimal Risk Ethics, rec@kcl.ac.uk.

Thank you for reading this information sheet and for considering taking part in this research.