

**NORTHWEST PSYCHOLOGICAL RESOURCES
AND
LOWER COLUMBIA COLLEGE**

CONSENT TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Study Title: ***Utility of the MMPI-2-RF in detecting non-credible symptom complaints under differing instructional sets.***

This is a research study about evaluating physical and mental symptoms of people who have suffering injuries. The study researchers, Drs. Stephen Meharg and Loretta Bolyard are local neuropsychologists at Northwest Psychological Resources, Longview, WA.

Research studies include only people who choose to take part. Please take your time to make your decision about participating, and discuss your decision with your family or friends if you wish. If you have any questions, you may ask the researchers.

You are being asked to take part in this study because you are a healthy volunteer.

Why is this study being done?

The purpose of this study is see how people respond to a common psychological test when given different kinds of instructions. Specifically, we want to find out how the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2-RF) can be used to evaluate people who are pretending they have been injured in a work-related accident and are applying for disability payment based on this injury. We believe this research will better help psychologists know how to use this test with people who have suffered real work-related injuries.

This study is a personal project by Drs. Meharg and Bolyard, and is not sponsored or funded by any agency or group. Drs. Meharg and Bolyard are personally paying for all costs associated with this study. They intend to share the results for free with other psychologists through presentations and/or publication in a scientific journal.

How many people will take part in this study?

Up to 100 people will take part in this study.

Who can't take part in this study?

Some people may not be able to take part. You cannot take part if you meet one or more of the following exclusion criteria:

- You are under age 18 or over age 65,
- You have a current, past, or pending claim for worker's compensation benefits,
- You are currently receiving disability compensation from any source (i.e., SSD/SSI, L&I, etc.),

- GAU, food stamps, and other types of state aid are OK.
- Your reading level is at the 6th grade level or below,
- You suffer a condition involving chronic or disabling pain, or an untreated severe mental disorder,
 - If your symptoms are well-managed and not disabling, you can take part
- You are unable to visually read print, operate a pencil to mark responses, or to sit for up to an hour, or
- You have been seriously injured in the past year and are not yet recovered.

What will happen if I take part in this research study?

After introductions and giving out door prizes, you will be asked to complete a few brief forms, listen carefully to instructions on how you should take the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2-RF), and then take this test. The MMPI-2-RF is a 338-item paper-and pencil inventory requiring you to read a statement, and then mark whether you believe the statement to be more “true” or “false.” You will respond to each statement in this manner. The test is self-administered, done silently, and without the input of others. Most people require about 45 minutes to complete the test, but you may complete it faster or take as long as you need. Before leaving, you will fill out another quick post-test survey.

If you agree, the following procedures will occur:

First, you will need to complete a checklist affirming that you can take part in the study according to criteria listed above. You will also fill out a brief form providing your gender and age. You will not need to write your name or other identifying information on the forms.

If the screening exam shows that you can be in the study and you choose to continue, this is what will happen next:

- You will receive specific instruction lasting about 10 minutes explaining this study and what you are to keep in mind while taking the MMPI-2-RF.
- You will not be filling out the test to describe yourself as you really are. Rather, you will complete the test while pretending to answer how you believe a person would respond who has just been injured on the job and is seeking treatment and possible payment for your injuries.
- You will be allowed to take the test with interruption until you are finished, at which time you will complete a brief exit interview form, and then are free to go.

Study Location.

All these procedures will be done at an available meeting space at L.C.C., or in the conference room at Northwest Psychological Resources, located in Longview, WA.

How long will I be in the study?

Participation in the study will take a total of about 90 minutes.

Can I stop being in the study?

Yes. You can decide to stop and leave at any time. Just tell the study researcher or staff person right away if you wish to stop being in the study. Also, the study researcher may stop you from taking part in this study at any time if he or she believes it is in your best interest, if you do not follow the study rules, or if the study is stopped.

What side effects or risks can I expect from being in the study?

- The MMPI-2-RF can be a bit tedious and require you to sit and concentrate for a period of time. Mild fatigue, boredom, or physical discomfort could be a problem for some people. You can stand up and take a break if you need to.
- Some of the test items may seem unusual or overly personal, and thus leave you feeling unsure or uncomfortable. Note that the MMPI-2-RF results will not truly reflect you or your real symptoms, but only someone you are pretending to be. Thus, the test results cannot be considered to tell anything about who you really are. While we ask for responses to each test item, you are free to decline to answer any items you do not wish to answer or to leave the study at any time.

For more information about risks and side effects, ask one of the researchers.

Are there benefits to taking part in the study?

There will be no direct benefit to you from participating in this study. However, the information that you provide may help health professionals better understand how to evaluate people with injuries.

What other choices do I have if I do not take part in this study?

As noted above, you are free to choose not to participate in the study. If you decide not to take part in this study, there will be no penalty to you. If you are seeking extra credit, your instructor may be able to offer you some alternatives.

Will information about me be kept private?

We will do our best to make sure that the personal information gathered for this study is kept private. However, we cannot guarantee total privacy. Your personal information may be given out if required by law. The risk of this is low. If information from this study is published or presented at scientific meetings, your name and other personal information will not be used.

What are the costs of taking part in this study?

There is no cost to you other than your time and cooperation.

Will I be paid for taking part in this study?

You will not be paid for taking part in this study. We will offer four \$50 Visa gift cards to persons providing the most convincing results on the test. We will make these determinations after reviewing all test data, and notify winners at that time. We will also provide several small

door prizes to be randomly distributed to participants at the time of testing. Some instructors may be able to offer extra credit for your participation. This will be between you and your instructor.

What are my rights if I take part in this study?

Taking part in this study is your choice. You may choose either to take part or not to take part in the study. If you decide to take part in this study, you may leave the study at any time. No matter what decision you make, there will be no penalty to you in any way.

Who can answer my questions about the study?

You can talk to the researcher(s) about any questions, concerns, or complaints you have about this study. Contact:

Dr. Stephen Meharg at 414-8600 extension 130 or smeharg@cfmal.com, or

Dr. Loretta Bolyard at 414-8600 extension 132 or loretta.bolyard@yahoo.com.

If you wish to ask questions about the study or your rights as a research participant to someone other than the researchers or if you wish to voice any problems or concerns you may have about the study, please call Wendy Hall at the L.C.C. Institutional Review Board.

CONSENT

You have been given a copy of this consent form to keep.

PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH IS VOLUNTARY. You have the right to decline to be in this study, or to withdraw from it at any point without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

If you wish to participate in this study, you should sign below.

Date

Participant's Signature for Consent