

AARC RCT Consent Form – for Caregivers

Study: Bringing Communities and Technologies Together for Healthy Aging - Randomized Control Trial

Participating Institution: University of Wisconsin- Madison (UW-Madison)

Investigators: David H. Gustafson, Ph.D., Active Aging Research Center Principal Investigator

Invitation and Purpose: Staying safe at home is very important as we age. **You are being invited to take part in this study because you are at least 18 years of age or older and caring for an adult 65 years or older that has decided to participate in the Active Aging Research Center study.** This study is being conducted by UW-Madison and with members of the State of Wisconsin Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC). This study will help us learn how technology can support older adults and their families.

What will I have to do?

1. Participation in the study is completely voluntary and will last a total of 18 months. You will be randomly put in one of two groups as a pair (you and the older adult you care for) and it is decided by chance (like the flip of a coin).
2. You will have a smaller role in the study and will still be asked to complete a survey in the beginning and at 6, 12 and 18 months. We will be available to answer any questions you have completing surveys. The survey will be mailed to you to complete and return to us in a self-addressed stamped envelope. If we do not receive the completed survey in the mail, we will call you.
3. In addition:
 - a. If your pair is randomly assigned to group one, the older adult you care for will receive an information packet from their local Aging and Disability Resource Center with information and resources for their community.
 - b. If your pair is randomly assigned to group two, you will both be given access to the Elder Tree website for 12 months and the research team will look at how you use the site. Elder Tree is designed to support older adults and caregivers so that older adults can maintain their independence in their home. If the older adult you care for does not have the technology to access Elder Tree we will provide it to them free of charge. We will also bring it to their home and can train both of you on how to use it. There is no cost to you to be involved and if anything happens to the equipment we loan out, you and the older adult you care for are not responsible if it is stolen or broken. At the end of 12 months the research team will schedule a time to come pick up the device and get feedback on the system.

How will we protect your confidentiality?

We will do all we can to keep your records confidential. This is very important to us. Only the study researchers organizing and recruiting will have your name. A number will be used on the surveys instead of your name so that you cannot be identified. Any records that have your name on it will be stored in a locked file cabinet at the researchers' office at UW-Madison. Participants assigned access to the Elder Tree website will be required to choose an anonymous codename and password.

Will there be any Costs?

There is no financial cost to you to participate in this study. The only cost to you is your time spent using the technology and completing surveys beginning today and at 6, 12 and 18 months.

What are the Benefits?

There is no direct benefit to you for participating in this study. However, the results of this study may benefit older adults by helping researchers discover new ways to support them and their families.

Are there any Risks?

- There will be a slight risk for a breach of confidentiality, as we will be collecting written consent.
- Elder Tree could give you wrong information. However, a panel of experts reviews it.
- You could get wrong information from the Internet and/or discussion group. However, we will provide you with simple tips to help you figure out whether you can trust the information.
- It is possible you could get upset from a posting in the online discussion group. The study team will routinely monitor discussion groups and appropriate action will be taken if a questionable post has been made online and/or if posts may put an individual at risk.

Will I be Compensated?

The older adult you care for will receive \$10 for each survey they complete as the research is primarily focused on them. While there are features on the Elder Tree website for caregivers your role is much smaller so you will not receive any financial compensation.

What if I Decide Not to Take Part?

You are free to withdraw from this study at any time. Your decision to withdraw will have no effect on any other service or program provided to you or the older adult you care for by the UW or by the ADRC.

Before you sign this form, please take as much time as you need to think this over and to ask questions.

Authorization: I _____ have read this consent form, asked questions, and been given answers. I agree to participate in this research study.

My signature also indicates that I have received a copy of this consent form.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Signature of Principal Investigator or Person Obtaining Consent

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, please contact:
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You may also contact the Social and Behavioral Science IRB Office at 608-263-2320.