

Key Information for Participatory Design of an AI Chatbot to Support Adolescent Mental Health

What Am I Being Asked To Do?

You are being asked to allow your child to be in a research study. This page will give you key information to help you decide if you would like your child to participate. Your participation is voluntary. As you read, please feel free to ask any questions you may have about the research.

What Is This Study About and What Procedures Will You be Asked to Follow?

What Is This Study About?

You and your child are invited to take part in a research study that involves participating in participatory design workshops to provide input on the design and refinement of an AI chatbot intended to support adolescent mental health. Your child will be asked to share their perspectives, review and critique prototype versions of the chatbot, and provide feedback to guide iterative improvements.

What Procedures Will You be Asked to Follow?

If you agree to be in this study, we will ask your child to complete a short demographics questionnaire after signing the consent form. Your child will then be invited to attend participatory design workshops, each lasting approximately 90 minutes. Workshops will be conducted virtually through secure videoconferencing. During the workshops, your child will be asked to discuss their needs, review and critique chatbot prototypes, suggest refinements, and validate features for clinical use. Sessions will be audio-recorded (and video-recorded if online) with their consent, transcribed, and de-identified for analysis.

Are There Any Risks or Discomforts you Might Experience by Being in this Study?

The primary risks involve minimal risk, limited to potential loss of confidentiality. Remember, you and your child may cease your participation in the study at any time.

What Are the Reasons You Might Want to Volunteer For This Study?

By participating in this research, you are not expected to receive personal benefits, health or otherwise, but your participation may help to gain improved understanding of parents' needs and values, contributing to the design of digital mental health tools for adolescent care.

Do You Have to Take Part in the This Study?

It is fully yours, and your child's, decision to be in this study or not. If you and your child do not choose to participate, or choose to participate and later determine you no longer wish to, you and your child will not lose any rights, services, or benefits as a result of your withdrawal. The study is completely voluntary.

PARENTAL PERMISSION DOCUMENT FOR ENROLLING MINORS IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Georgia Institute of Technology

Project Title: **Participatory Design of an AI Chatbot to Support Adolescent Mental Health**

Investigators:

Munmun De Choudhury – Professor, Interactive Computing, Georgia Tech
Owen Xingjian Zhang – PhD-CS Student, Interactive Computing, Georgia Tech

Protocol and Consent Title: IRB2026-110 - Patients and Parents: Participatory Design Workshops for AI-Supported Mental Health Tools

You are being asked to allow your child to be in a research study.

Purpose:

The purpose of this study is to engage teenagers in participatory design workshops in order to inform the design and refinement of an AI chatbot intended to support adolescent mental health. The study seeks to gather their perspectives on clinical needs, evaluate prototype features, and collaboratively develop design guidelines that will ensure the chatbot is clinically useful, ethically appropriate, and practical for real-world care.

Exclusion/Inclusion Criteria:

Teenagers in this study must be currently receiving or have received mental health-related care at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA).

Procedures:

If you agree to be in this study, we will ask you to complete a short demographics questionnaire after signing the consent form. You will then be invited to participate in a series of participatory design workshops. Each workshop will last approximately 90 minutes and will be conducted virtually through secure videoconferencing.

During workshops, you will be asked to share your perspectives, review and critique prototype versions of the AI chatbot, provide feedback on strengths

and weaknesses, and suggest refinements to its features and workflows. Across the study, the workshops will move through several phases, beginning with open discussion of needs and priorities, followed by introduction and refinement of prototype tools, iterative modifications, and validation of the final version.

Sessions will be audio-recorded (and video-recorded if conducted virtually) with your consent and transcribed for analysis. All data will be de-identified during transcription, and recordings will be destroyed once transcripts are verified. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you may choose to skip any activity or withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

Risks or Discomforts:

The primary risks involve minimal risk, limited to potential loss of confidentiality. Remember, you may cease your participation in the study at any time.

Benefits:

By participating in this research, you are not expected to receive personal benefits, health or otherwise, but your participation may help to gain improved understanding of clinician needs and values, contributing to the design of digital mental health tools for adolescent care.

Compensation to You:

Your child will be compensated for your time with \$25 after the completion of the study and manual verification of the quality of workshops.

Storing and Sharing your Information:

Your child's participation in this study is gratefully acknowledged. It is possible that your child's information/data will be enormously valuable for other research purposes. By signing below, you consent for your child's de-identified information/data to be stored by the researcher and to be shared with other researchers in future studies. If you agree to allow such future sharing and use, your child's identity will be completely separated from his/her information/data. Future researchers will not have a way to identify your child. Any future research must be approved by an ethics committee before being undertaken.

Use of Photographs, Audio, or Video Recordings:

This study will involve audio and video recordings of the participatory design workshops. These recordings will be used solely for research purposes, including transcription, analysis, and verification of the study data.

Only members of the research team at Georgia Tech have access to the recordings. All recordings will be stored securely on password-protected, access-controlled servers. After the recordings have been fully transcribed and the accuracy of the transcripts has been verified, the recordings will be permanently deleted. Transcripts will be de-identified before analysis.

We will not use any photographs, audio recordings, video recordings, or other identifiable information about you in any public presentations or publications without your explicit consent. If we ever wish to use such materials for public presentation (e.g., talks, posters, demonstrations), we will request your written permission beforehand. You may decline without impacting your ability to participate in the study.

Confidentiality:

The following procedures will be followed to keep your child's personal information confidential in this study: We will comply with any applicable laws and regulations regarding confidentiality. To protect your child's privacy, your child's records will be kept under a code number rather than by name. Your child's records will be kept in locked files and, unless you give specific consent otherwise, only study staff will be allowed to look at them. Your child's name and any other fact that might point to him will not appear when results of this study are presented or published. However, in the future, we may strip your child's data and/or bio-specimens of all information that could identify them. If this is done, we will share the de-identified information and/or bio-specimens for purposes of future research without obtaining additional consent from you and your child.

You should be aware that the experiment is not being run from a 'secure' https server of the kind typically used to handle credit card transactions, so there is a small possibility that your child's responses could be viewed by unauthorized third parties such as computer hackers. In general, the web page software will log as header lines the IP address of the machine your child uses to access this page, e.g.,102.403.506.807, but otherwise no other information will be stored unless your child explicitly enter it.

Costs to You or Your Child:

There are no costs to you or your child, other than your time, for being in this study.

Questions about the Study:

If you have questions about the research study itself, please contact the Principal Investigators Munmun De Choudhury, at munmun.choudhury@cc.gatech.edu . If you have any questions about your

rights as a research subject, you may contact Georgia Institute of Technology Office of Research Integrity Assurance at IRB@gatech.edu .

Questions about Your Child's Rights as a Research Participant:

- Your child's participation in this study is voluntary. They do not have to be in this study if they don't want to be, even if you give your permission. Your child will be asked separately if they want to be in the study. If they decide not to participate, they will not be enrolled even if you have agreed that they may.
- You have the right to change your mind and remove your child from the study at any time without giving any reason and without penalty.
- Any new information that may make you change your mind about allowing your child to be in this study will be given to you.
- You will be given a copy of this Parental Permission form to keep.
- You do not waive any of your legal rights or those of your child by signing this Parental Permission form.

If you have any questions about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Georgia Institute of Technology Office of Research Integrity Assurance at IRB@gatech.edu.

By completing the online survey, you indicate your permission for your child to be in the study.