



Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance

**Opportunity to Participate in a
Telephone Interview Study:**
*Managing Bipolar Disorder
in the Context of
Employer-Sponsored Insurance*

We are seeking volunteers to participate in a study to understand how people with employer-sponsored insurance obtain mental health care and manage the costs of their care. Please read this form carefully. It tells you important information about the opportunity to participate in this telephone interview study. This study is completely voluntary; whether or not you volunteer to participate in this research is up to you, and you can opt out at any point in time.

Who can participate in the study?

We wish to conduct telephone interviews with people in either one of these two groups:

- (1) people living with bipolar disorder, or,
- (2) close caregivers of individuals living with bipolar disorder.

In either case, the individual who is living with bipolar disorder must be enrolled in a health insurance plan that was obtained through an employer. This employer-sponsored health insurance could either be obtained by the individual themselves or as a beneficiary on another family member's plan.

To be eligible for the research as a **family member**, however you **DO NOT** need to be the primary subscriber of the health insurance policy that the individual living with bipolar disorder is using. Below are eligible family examples:

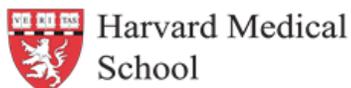
- two spouses who each have their own insurance plan, or the family member is covered under the plan of the individual living with bipolar disorder
- parent whose child living with bipolar disorder is covered under an ex-spouse's plan
- siblings who each have their own insurance plan

How do I volunteer to participate in the study?

If you fit the description above, please contact Phyllis Foxworth at the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) (telephone 312-988-1160) to express your interest. Phyllis will further explain the study to you. Please ask about anything you do not understand. Phyllis will ask you where you live and information about your health insurance plan. If the fit is good and volunteers are still needed for the study, she will pass your name and telephone number to other members of the study team at Harvard Medical School in Boston. This team will contact you, provide you with more information about the study, conduct additional screening for study eligibility, and, if the fit is good, request your informed verbal consent prior to the telephone interview.

What is the purpose of this study?

Our ultimate goal is to better understand how different insurance plan designs affect people's ability to manage care for bipolar disorder. Interviews with people who live with bipolar disorder and their caregivers represent one step towards that goal.



How long will the interview be?

The one-hour interview can be scheduled at your convenience.

Is the interview voluntary?

Yes, your participation is completely voluntary. If you decide to participate, you may change your mind later. You may refuse to answer any question and may ask to end the interview at any time.

How will the information I give be used and protected?

The interview will be recorded and transcribed into document format. No personal information that could identify you will be included on the transcript – no name and no contact information. Your name and contact information will be kept in protected files, and the study team will delete your name and contact information a few days after your interview. Only approved study staff will read and analyze the de-identified interview transcripts. Transcripts will be kept in locked file cabinets or on password-protected computers. We will absolutely not contact your employer, insurance company, or doctors, and we will have no access to any other personal information or medical records.

Are there benefits to taking part in this study?

You may enjoy both participating and knowing that you are contributing to scientific knowledge that has the potential to stimulate future health system improvements that could benefit individuals living with bipolar disorder.

Are there any risks or costs to me involved with participation in this study?

Risks are minimal and include the potential loss of privacy or confidentiality resulting from unauthorized disclosure of the information collected, potential discomfort around discussing personal matters, and similar potential risks and discomforts that we currently cannot predict. The only cost to you is your time spent on the telephone.

Will I be paid for taking part in this study?

After you complete the interview, we will mail you a \$50 gift card to reflect our appreciation. You will have the option to choose from among several major national retail chains.

Who is funding the study?

This study is funded by The Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) [project number: IHS-1408-20393].



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*Interested? Please call Phyllis Foxworth at
DBSA in Chicago: telephone (312) 988-1160*



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