

# THOR

## The Health and Occupation Research network DATABASE INFORMATION SHEET

### What is THOR?

- A project to collect information on work-related illness
- The information is collected by medical specialists throughout the UK
- The information collected is anonymous, which means that you (the patient) cannot be identified
- The information is treated confidentially, in the same way as all clinical details about you (the patient) that might be available to your doctor

### What is the purpose of THOR?

- To improve knowledge about work-related illness
- To help patients and doctors in reducing work-related illness
- We have had more than 350,000 cases reported so far, and the information from large groups of cases is used to try to prevent health problems at work for the future

### Who pays for THOR?

- The project has been running since the late 1980s.
- The project is partly funded by the Health and Safety Executive, and from charitable sources
- THOR is run by a team of doctors and researchers at Manchester University

### What information is reported?

- Information which does not allow you (the patient) to be identified
- Details of age and sex (for example, a woman aged 44)
- The general area in which you live (for example, M20 or Manchester postal district 20)
- A title for your job (for example, doctor or warehouseman)
- The industry you work in (for example, the National Health Service)
- Information about the cause of your illness (for example, contact with dust)
- Why the doctor saw you in clinic (for example, your doctor may have referred you to the specialist)

### If my case is reported can this be harmful to me in any way?

No, because

- The researchers and doctors at Manchester University cannot identify you in person
- Reporting your case does not affect your treatment in any way

### What good will it do if my case is reported?

- The information your doctor gives the researchers may help others to deal with similar cases
- Your doctor may ask for information from the research team which may help your doctor deal with your case

### Where can I find out more?

- Visit our web site at [www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/oeht/research/thor](http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/oeht/research/thor)