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/oeh/research/thor