
Participant Information Sheet

THIS IS FOR YOU TO KEEP

A review of the use of Medication Standing Orders in Australian Emergency Departments.

Invitation

You are being asked to volunteer in a research study titled, *a review of the use of Medication Standing Orders in Australian Emergency Departments*.

The aim of this study is to review the current practice regarding the development, use and application of medication standing orders in Australian Emergency Departments. The study involves two surveys, one of which aims to explore nursing staff use and opinions of Medication Standing Orders in their Emergency Department.

In particular, we are hoping to gather information about:

- Your understanding of the definition of a medication standing order;
- Your frequency of use of individual medication standing orders;
- Your knowledge and confidence of use of medication standing orders; and
- The type of organisational support of use of medication standing orders

This information will be used in the future to design a set of medication standing orders for use by Australian Medical Assistance Team overseas deployments after disasters.

This research is being conducted by the University of Queensland as a part of a Masters Research Project.

The research team is being led by Melanie Morrow, Senior Clinical Pharmacist for the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre, Darwin NT. Other team members include Ms Bhavini Patel (Executive Director of Medicines Management, Top End Health Service, Northern Territory Department of Health) and Doctor David Pache (Conjoint Associate lecturer, School of Pharmacy, University of Queensland; Honorary adjunct assistant professor, Faculty of Health Services and Medicine, Bond University and Senior Pharmacist, Mater Pharmacy Services).

What is the aim of this study?

This research will aid in determining whether standardisation of medication standing orders across Australia in the Emergency Department setting is possible and assist with planning on clinical governance arrangements when Medication standing orders are used during an international disaster response.

What will I be asked to do?

If you choose to complete the online survey you will be asked a small number of questions regarding your personal experiences with using medication standing orders in your workplace. **You will not be asked to identify yourself directly.** If you work as a registered nurse (RN) in an emergency department in any capacity, I would be grateful if you could complete this survey. Even if you do not use MSOs or do not use them very often, I am interested in your views.

You will only need to tick a box for most answers. It should take no more than 10 minutes. If you would like a hard copy of the survey to complete, please let me know and we will post this out to you. Please complete the survey only once.

Are there any possible benefits from joining this study?

Whilst you may find the questions interesting, you will not otherwise gain any personal benefit from participating in this study. More broadly, your contribution will help to develop a set of medication standing orders for use by the Australian Medical Assistance Teams on deployment overseas after a disaster.

Are there any risks from joining in this study?

Apart from your time to complete the survey, we can foresee no risks for you. Your involvement in this study is voluntary and you may withdraw your participation at any time during the survey without your responses being recorded. Once you have completed the survey your responses will be recorded and will not be able to be withdrawn. Should you decide not to participate in this study your decision will not influence your relationship with the project and/or the researchers.

Your survey responses will be anonymous and confidential. The survey will not capture your email address and the link to the survey we have provided you is a generic link which does not contain any unique identifiers. If you feel that by completing the questions about yourself and your current work you would be giving enough information to be directly identified, you may choose to leave the question on your hospital unanswered to protect your identity. All survey responses will be aggregated and your responses will not be used outside the needs of the current study. Only aggregated data will be included in published reports on this study.

Whilst overall, the risks from joining this study are deemed low, the survey questions may cause an emotional response. In the unlikely event this occurs please cease the survey and contact a support person. The research team are also happy to do this on your behalf. Options for further support including your local GP, Lifeline (Ph: 13 11 14) and Beyond Blue (Ph: 1300 22 4636) should this be required.

How will the results of the study be published?

Results from this study will be made in to a report. You can ask for a copy of the report. The results may also be printed in an academic journal and presented at meetings.

What if I have questions about this study?

If you have any questions about this study you can contact the Chief Investigator, Melanie Morrow at Melanie.morrow@nt.gov.au.

"This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with project staff (contactable on (08) 89441345), if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on (07) 3365 3924."

Now what?

This Information Sheet is yours to keep. Proceeding with the online survey will indicate your consent to participate in the research.

Thank you for your time.