

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project ID: 51615

Project title: SUPPORT-Meds (Supporting Primary care Practice through Outreach, Resources and Training to optimise Medicine use) evaluation

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Funding: The SUPPORT-Meds program and its evaluation is supported by funding from the Australian Government of Health, Disability and Ageing under the Quality Use of Diagnostics, Therapeutics and Pathology program.

You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

What does the research involve?

The aim of this study is to evaluate the SUPPORT-Meds program. You are being asked to share your feedback and experience of the education program and how it may support your deprescribing practice.

All data collected during the education program will be used to evaluate the SUPPORT-Meds program. We expect the total time to complete the surveys within the education will be 15 minutes. All surveys are completed online using REDCap. These surveys ask about you (e.g. age, degree, state where you work), your self-efficacy for deprescribing, and satisfaction and experience of the education program.

If you also complete the mini-audits (additional optional element of the education), this will also be used to evaluate the impact of the program. The mini-audit can only be completed after completing the education. If you choose to do the mini audit, it will be completed online. You will conduct the mini-audit by looking through your records and reflecting on their deprescribing behaviour from the time period before you completed the education. This will be your baseline mini-audit. Healthcare professionals who complete the baseline mini-audit will be strongly encouraged to complete the mini-audit 6-months later. To enable and encourage participants to complete the initial mini-audit and

6-month re-audit up to two reminder emails one week apart with a direct personalized link to complete the mini-audit will be sent. The reminder emails will be sent approximately 1 week apart. Students will not need to complete the mini-audit. At the end of the education program, you will be asked if you are willing to participate in two more optional research components of the project. The two components are an additional optional survey and/or an interview. During the survey/interview you will be asked what part of the education program worked for you or not, as well as your experiences with deprescribing. It will take about 15 minutes to complete the survey, and 30-60 minutes to participate in an interview. Interviews will be conducted on Zoom with a member of the research team and will be audiotaped and transcribed. All surveys and interviews will be de-identified.

This study will include consenting doctors, pharmacists, nurses and other healthcare professionals with experience in managing medicines (including students who have completed at least one clinical placement). Management of medications is defined as prescribing, dispensing, administering, monitoring or otherwise supporting safe medicines use. People who are less than 18 years old or not able to read and communicate in English will not be eligible to participate.

Why were you invited for this research?

You were invited to participate in this study as you are a healthcare professional such as doctor, pharmacist or nurse or a future healthcare professional (i.e. student) participating in the SUPPORT-Meds education program. Your experience will help us evaluate and shape the education program.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

The SUPPORT-Meds program is not part of the evaluation study. Participation in this research is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to.

You will be asked to provide consent when you begin the education program. By doing this, you are providing consent for us to use the information you provide for the purpose of this study.

If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage and can continue with the education program. You can also withdraw up to 6 months after your participation. You can withdraw by sending an email to support-meds@monash.edu or asking to withdraw verbally if you would like to withdraw during the interview. Any data that you have provided that has not yet been used for analysis may also be requested to be removed and securely destroyed.

For those involved in interviews, you can withdraw and remove your data from the study during the interview or up to 48 hours after the interview. Due to the nature of qualitative research, it will not be possible to remove your data once it has been considered in the analysis (which will occur throughout recruitment).

Possible benefits and risks to participants

You will gain no direct benefit from this study. However, you may benefit from the education program, and the results of this research will provide valuable information for the development of education which will help healthcare professionals like you in the future.

There are no anticipated risks to you other than inconvenience for the time you will take to answer our questions. We do not believe that any questions will cause you distress or discomfort. You have the right to skip questions if you do not feel comfortable answering them.

How you answer the questions will not affect your relationship with any of the individuals or organisations involved in this research now or in the future.

Payment

If you participate in the optional research interview, in appreciation of your time and involvement you will be offered \$150 in the form of an electronic gift card. After completion of your interview, we will send you a link via email which will enable you to redeem your gift card for a merchant of your choosing.

Confidentiality

Any information obtained in connection with this research project that can identify you will remain confidential. At the completion of this study, names will be removed from other information, de-identifying the data.

The information collected is not anticipated to be of a sensitive nature.

The results will be disseminated through publication in scientific journals and presentations at scientific meetings and other settings. You will not be identifiable in any resulting publications and/or dissemination activities. We may include interview quotes, but these will only be noted to have come from a person with your general characteristics (e.g. gender, profession, work setting).

Storage of data

The data will be stored for at least 5 years on secure Monash University servers accessible only to members of the research team. All data collected will be stored electronically, no hard copy versions will be created.

After 5 years, all files will be permanently deleted.

Use of data for other purposes

In accordance with data sharing guidelines, totally de-identified data may be used by this research team and made available for use by other researchers (upon reasonable request) to answer additional research questions. This may be a requirement of some journals prior to publication. Any shared data will not include your identifying detail.

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)

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Room 116, Administration Building B (3D)
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