

Participant Information Sheet

Research Title: Exploring Security in the GP-Patient Relationship: A Qualitative Study

Researchers:

Dr Hayley Thomas, Clinical Senior Lecturer, Primary Care Clinical Unit, The University of Queensland
A/Prof Nancy Sturman, Acting Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland

A/Prof Lauren Ball, NHMRC Fellow, Menzies Health Institute, Griffith University

Dr Elizabeth Sturgiss, Senior Research Fellow, School of Primary and Allied Healthcare, Monash University

A/Prof Megan Best, Associate Professor of Bioethics, Institute for Ethics and Society, The University of Notre Dame

Dr Johanna Lynch, Senior Lecturer, Primary Care Clinical Unit, The University of Queensland

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. Please read the following information about the project so that you can decide whether you would like to take part in this research. Please feel free to ask any questions you might have about our involvement in the project. If you decide to participate in this research, please keep in mind that your participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to stop at any time prior to data analysis, and you would not need to give any explanation for your decision to stop participating. If you choose to stop participating prior to data analysis, your data will not be used in the research. Your decision whether you take part, or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with the University of Queensland.

What is this research about?

This research is exploring how healing GP-patient relationships are experienced and cultivated. It is funded by a grant from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Foundation.

What will I need to do?

If you and your practice agree to participate, you will be asked to display a flyer at your practice reception inviting your patients to complete a secure electronic survey regarding the quality and depth of their relationship with you, their GP. Because a flyer will be displayed at reception, consent will also be sought from your practice to participate in the study via a separate information and consent form provided to the practice by the research team. The survey will be accessed by patients via a QR code, and the results are confidential and accessible only to the research team. Patients will be asked at the end of the survey if they are willing to be contacted by a member of the research team to participate in a 30-60 minute semi-structured interview with a member of the research team regarding their relationship with their GP. Later, a selection of these patients whose GPs are also selected for interview will be invited to participate in an interview with a member of the research team, and to complete questionnaires regarding their relational ('attachment') style and their perceptions of their GP practice.

After reviewing survey results, a selection of GP participants will be invited to participate in a 30-60 minute semi-structured interview with a member of the research team regarding how they experience and cultivate healing relationships with patients. The interview will both explore this

generally, and in the context of two to three of their specific patients who are separately interviewed. Interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed for data analysis. Interview data will be kept confidential and accessible only to members of the research team, unless required by law. To be clear, to maintain confidentiality GP responses will not be disclosed to their patients and vice versa. You will not have access to any information from individual patient surveys or interviews, and no patients will have access to any information from GP interviews. The interview transcript from your interview will only be accessed by the researcher team. The researcher who interviews you will not be the same researcher who interviews your patients.

GPs who participate in interviews will also be asked to complete a questionnaire regarding their relational ('attachment') style. GPs and patients who are invited to and participate in an interview will be given a \$50 Coles/Myer gift voucher to thank them for their involvement.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By exploring how healing GP-patient relationships are experienced and cultivated, we expect this research to assist patients, GPs and health systems to foster these types of relationships.

If you participate in an interview, you will be compensated for your time with a \$50 Coles/Myer Gift voucher. Otherwise, there will be no direct benefit to you from your participation in this research.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?

Your participation in this research is expected to be low risk. In the unlikely event that you experience discomfort or distress as a result of participating in the interview, you are free to withdraw from the study at any time. You are welcome to contact the researchers (details below) to discuss any concerns, and free counselling services are available through Lifeline if required (Ph: 13 11 14). You may also wish to contact your own GP or the Doctors Health Advisory Service (Ph 07 3833 4352) in the event of any discomfort or distress arising from the interview.

What will happen to the information about me?

All information collected about you will remain confidential. Your interviewed patients will be aware that you are participating in an interview. They will not be advised of your responses. Electronic data will be stored securely on the University of Queensland's research data management system or a secure online survey platform and hard copy data will be stored in locked cabinets. Data will be accessible only to members of the research team.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forms. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your expressed permission.

What will happen if I decide to withdraw?

Your participation in this research is voluntary and you are free to withdraw from the research anytime without needing to provide any explanation, and you would not receive any penalty or bias as a result of your withdrawal. Should you decide to withdraw before data analysis, all the information collected from/about you will be destroyed and will not be used in the research. We will be unable to remove your data after data analysis has commenced, as data will be combined after this point.

Can I hear about the results of this research?

You will be asked if you would like to receive a copy of the published results of this research on the consent form for the study. If you indicate that you would like to receive this, the published results will be emailed to you when available.

Who can I contact if I have any concerns about the project?

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. You are free to discuss your participation in this study with Dr Hayley Thomas (contactable on h.thomas@uq.edu.au). If you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on +617 3365 3924 / +617 3443 1656 or email humanethics@research.uq.edu.au

This research Ethics ID number: 2021/HE001858

Consent form

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Name of the participant: -----

I consent to participate in this research project. It has been explained to me that the purpose of this research is to investigate the GP-Patient relationship. I have also been provided with written project information in a language that I can understand.

The possible risks of participating in this research have been explained to my satisfaction. I understand that in this research I will be required to display a flyer at my practice reception inviting patients who are booking or consulting with me to complete an online survey, accessible by a QR code. This will be subject to separate consent being obtained from the practice by the research team. Following review of these surveys, I may be contacted by a member of the research team to arrange a 30-60 minute interview and completion of a survey concerning my relational ('attachment') style. I understand that this interview will be Audio recorded.

I understand that my participation is voluntary and I am free to withdraw from this research any time prior to data analysis without needing to provide any explanation, and I would not receive any penalty or bias as a result of my withdrawal. Should I decide to withdraw prior to data analysis, I understand that my data will be destroyed and will not be used in the research.

I understand that electronic data collected for this research will be stored on The University of Queensland's research data management system or a secure online survey platform and hard copy data will be stored in locked cabinets and only members of the research team will have access to the data, unless required by law.

I understand that this research adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. I have been provided with contact details of the researcher, as well as UQ Ethics Coordinator.

Participant signature ----- Date -----

Date -----

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