

### Participant Information Sheet: Practices

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

This project is funded by an RACGP Foundation Family Medical Care Education and Research Grant.

**Researchers:**

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A/Prof Nancy Sturman, Acting Head, Mayne Academy of General Practice, Faculty of Medicine, The University of Queensland

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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

We are seeking your approval to conduct this research with your GPs and their patients, subject to their individual consent. We hope that the research will increase understanding of healing GP-patient relationships, by identifying GPs and patients with positive relationships and exploring how these relationships are cultivated. **You are under no obligation to consent to this research.** Whether or not you do approve the research will have no effect on your relationship with the investigators, UQ or the RACGP.

If you agree to participate you will be asked to display a flyer (attached) at reception inviting patients of participating GPs to complete a secure electronic survey regarding the quality and depth of their relationship with their GP. 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 an interview.

A selection of GPs and patients with positive relationships (as identified by patients on the survey), will be invited to participate in separate 30-60 minute semi-structured interviews with a member of the research team. The interview will explore how they experience and/or cultivate a healing relationship with their GP/patients. For GPs, 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 participants will also be asked to complete questionnaires regarding their relational ('attachment') style and (for patients) their perceptions of their GP practice. 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. Interviews will be conducted either online or face to face at the practice (if this can be accommodated) or at the University of Queensland's Primary Care Clinical Unit.

Interview data will be kept confidential and accessible only to members of the research team, unless required by law. The flyer displayed at reception will only invite patients of participating GPs to complete the survey; if despite this any patient of a GP who has not provided consent to participate completes the survey, their data will be deleted by a member of the research team without reviewing their responses to questions about their relationship with this GP. Interviewed patients and GPs will only be aware that the other member of the GP-patient dyad has also participated in an interview. To be clear, to maintain confidentiality GP responses will not be disclosed to their patients or practices and vice versa. 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 participants and practices cannot be identified, except with their expressed permission.

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

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 Thomas (contactable on [h.thomas@uq.edu.au](mailto: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](mailto:humanethics@research.uq.edu.au)

This research Ethics ID number: 2021/HE001858

- 1. Our practice consents to our GPs and patients participating in this research, subject to their individual consent**

Signature

On behalf of