

Plain Language Statement

Melbourne School of Population and Global Health

Project: Management of Chlamydia Cases in Australia Interviews with clinic staff

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Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this research project. The following few pages will provide you with further information about the project, so that you can decide if you would like to take part in this research.

Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions about anything you don't understand or want to know more about.

Your participation is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you don't have to. If you begin participating, you can also stop at any time.

What is this research about?

This research is part of a National Health and Medical Research Council funded project entitled Management of Chlamydia Cases in Australia (MoCCA). Led by Professor Jane Hocking at the University of Melbourne, MoCCA is investigating strategies for strengthening management of chlamydia infections in general practice clinics in Australia. This research involves an implementation and feasibility study, where several interventions designed to support GPs in managing a patient with a genital chlamydia infection will be implemented in clinics. In this study, we will seek to identify which interventions are feasible for use in general practice, and will examine their implementation, uptake and impact on chlamydia outcomes.

The resources include a website and manual to support GPs in managing a patient with a chlamydia infection, including for:

- Notifying and treating the sexual partners of patients with a chlamydia infection,

- Organising for patients to be retested for reinfection around three months after chlamydia treatment
- Supporting GPs to discuss pelvic inflammatory disease with female patients diagnosed with chlamydia

What will I be asked to do?

Should you agree to participate, you will be asked to participate in a brief interview either in person or via Zoom with a member of the research team. During the interview, the researcher will ask questions about the MoCCA study, website and manual. The researcher may ask you to access and navigate through the MoCCA website and manual while providing verbal feedback on these resources. If your interview is conducted online, you may be asked to share your screen with the researcher. The interview will be recorded and transcribed for analysis and will take approximately 30 minutes.

What are the possible benefits?

Your participation will help us to assess if the MoCCA resources (the website and manual) are an acceptable and feasible means of supporting chlamydia management in general practice and to identify how we could refine these resources for more widespread use. Improving chlamydia management will benefit patients and will benefit GPs and nurses by improving the efficiency of managing chlamydia infections.

You will receive a \$100 gift voucher to thank you for your time, which will be sent to you after the interview.

What are the possible risks?

There are no anticipated risks of participating in an interview.

If you do require further guidance or support about chlamydia management, the following services are available:

Australian STI Management Guidelines

<https://sti.guidelines.org.au/>

ASHM Contact Tracing Guidelines

<http://contacttracing.ashm.org.au/>

STIPU (New South Wales STI Programs Unit)

<https://stipu.nsw.gov.au/gp/>

Melbourne Sexual Health Centre

<https://www.mshc.org.au/>

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide you want to withdraw from the study, any information collected about you can be removed. Please let researchers know within four weeks of your interview if you want to withdraw.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

Aggregated findings about the MoCCA feasibility study, including findings from the interviews, will be provided to you at the conclusion of the project. Findings may also be presented at national and international conferences, published in academic journals and form part of a PhD thesis.

What will happen to information about me?

Any personal information obtained during this project will remain confidential and anonymous. We will protect your information and keep it private, subject to any legal requirements. A code will be used instead of your name in transcripts and notes. Your contact details, recordings and transcripts will be kept in password-protected files and kept on a password protected computer, accessible only to the named researchers. The University of Melbourne requires us to keep this data for 5 years after publication before destroying it.

All information that comes from this project will be presented in such a way that cannot identify you as an individual. The results from this project may be included in a PhD thesis, and may be published in academic journals, and presented at national and international conferences.

Who is funding this project?

This research project is part of a larger project on improving chlamydia management in general practice that is funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. NSW Ministry of Health, Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, Queensland Health, North West Melbourne Primary Health Network, Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network, and Victorian Cytology Service are partners on this project.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact:

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

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne (ID: 22665). If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact the Research Integrity Administrator, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 8344 1376 or Email: research-integrity@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team and/or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.