

Participant Information Form

Project title: Exploration of health professionals' perception on factors affecting optimisation of medicines regimens in older adults: A qualitative study

Name of Researchers: Dawit Yimenu, Dr Amy Page, Dr Kate Wang, Dr Liza Seubert, Eyob Gebreyohannes, Alex Park, Melina Manganaro, Ali Al-Hasnawy, Eden Feleke, Cassandra Biltsouris, Dr Kenneth Lee

This is a PhD student research project.

Invitation

You are invited to participate in a research project that aims to explore general practitioners' perception of the factors affecting optimal medicines prescribing for older adults (aged 65 years and above) in Australia. You are asked to take part in this project because you are a registered specialist general practitioner (GP) in Australia with an experience in prescribing medicines for older adults.

Your personal experience and views on the different aspects of medicines prescribing for older adults will provide a unique perspective to understanding the most important factors affecting optimisation of medicines regimens in older people. This study is part of a larger project investigating the personal, interpersonal and sociocultural factors associated with optimal medicines use in older adults in Australia.

Aim of the study (what is the project about?)

Medicines prescribing is one of the most important factors that can determine the overall quality of healthcare and patient satisfaction with treatment. Suboptimal medicines regimens usually lead to an increased risk of adverse medicines effects and patient non-adherence to prescribed medicines. This could, however, be minimised had consumers take carefully selected, fewer and only necessary medicines to their individual circumstances.

On the other hand, the prescribing process by itself is complex and requires careful consideration of multiple underlying factors that can impact the choice and utilisation of specific medicines regimens. As a result, it necessitates a comprehensive understanding and thorough analysis of the patient's condition and the potential outcomes of different available options.

In this project, we look to explore the factors that are most important to you when making prescribing decisions for older adults under your care. You will be asked a few questions about your perspectives and experiences related to prescribing medications for older adults.

What does participation involve?

We would like to interview you. The interview will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes on average and can be conducted online or face-to-face. You will be interviewed by a Master of Pharmacy (MPharm) student at the University of Western Australia who will ask you some questions about your medicines prescribing experience for older adults and audio-record the conversation for analysis purposes.

Voluntary participation and withdrawal from the study

Participation in this study is on a voluntary basis. Your answers to all the interview questions will be highly appreciated. However, you are entitled to skip any of the questions you do not want to answer and/ or withdraw from the study at any time without giving any reason. Any information you provided before withdrawing from the study will be permanently deleted and will not be processed further. However, only participants who finish the whole interview will be compensated for their time and participation in the study.

Your privacy

Your participation in this study and any information you provide will be treated in a confidential manner. Information from this project will be published but your name and identifying details will not be used in any publication arising from the study. All the audio recordings will be transferred into a secured (password-protected) computer which will later be transcribed word by word to a Microsoft Word document. The original recordings will be deleted permanently. The collected data will be kept in a non-identifiable format in a password-protected computer until the completion of the study, and later be archived and stored in the University of Western Australia Institutional Research Data Store (UWA-IRDS) for a minimum of seven years as per the University's Data Management policy. When the minimum data retention period has been surpassed, a secured and permanent destruction of the data will be done based on the University's policy.

Possible benefits

By participating in this study, it is hoped that you will feel satisfied knowing that you have made a valuable contribution to the prospect of optimising medicines regimens for older adults through gaining an understanding of the underlying factors that impact the optimal prescribing of medicines.

The findings of this study will serve as a baseline for future research and interventions focused on optimising medicines regimens for older adults through targeting the main barriers to

optimal prescribing. You will have access to the findings of this study once it has been published and become available online.

Possible risks and risk management plan

There are no foreseeable risks due to your participation in this study. However, in cases of any unforeseen circumstances, you can contact the principal investigator of the study (Dr Kenneth Lee) who can direct you to appropriate services.

Reimbursement

By participating in this study, you will receive a \$100 Prezzy gift voucher as an appreciation for your time and participation in the study.

Contacts

If you have questions or concerns about participating in this study, please feel free to contact Dr Kenneth Lee either on (phone)(08) 6488 2444 or (email) Kenneth.Lee@uwa.edu.au.

Sincerely,

Dawit Yimenu (Ph.D. student)

Approval to conduct this research has been provided by the University of Western Australia, in accordance with its ethics review and approval procedures. Any person considering participation in this research project, or agreeing to participate, may raise any questions or issues with the researchers at any time. In addition, any person not satisfied with the response of researchers may raise ethics issues or concerns, and may make any complaints about this research project by contacting the Human Ethics office at UWA on (08) 6488 3703 or by emailing to humanethics@uwa.edu.au. All research participants are entitled to retain a copy of any Participant Information Form and/or Participant Consent Form relating to this research project.