

Plain Language Statement

Department of General Practice

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry, and Health Sciences



Project: Implementation review of the National Primary Health Network (PHN) Guidance for Initial Assessment and Referral for Mental Healthcare

Associate Professor Victoria Palmer (Responsible Researcher)

Tel: 03 8344 4987 Email: v.palmer@unimelb.edu.au

Introduction

Thank you for your interest in participating in this 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?

The Australian Government Department of Health has recently developed new guidance to help people access the services they need to improve their mental health. They have engaged the University of Melbourne to evaluate how this guidance is being used, to learn what is working well and where there are opportunities for improving the way mental health care is delivered in the future.

What will I be asked to do?

To understand how mental health care is delivered in your area, the team at the University are looking at the information being collected in relation to people's mental health needs, and how that information is used to inform decisions about the services people might be referred to. Note that this information is collected routinely and used to inform these decisions regardless of whether or not you participate in this project.

Should you agree to participate you will be asked to:

1. Agree to your mental health assessment information and contact details being provided to the University of Melbourne. Assessment information could include things like notes that your GP made when they asked about your mental health, referral forms, or structured questionnaires you might have been asked to

complete. The documents will be reviewed by a panel of independent experts to assess the type of information being collected. It's important to note that your name and contact details will be removed before the documents are provided to the experts. They will not be focusing on your particular circumstances but rather, on the nature of the documents themselves and the type of information recorded in them.

2. Provide confidential feedback to the team at the University about your experience of having a mental health assessment and whether your needs were met. This will be done over the phone at a time that is convenient for you and will take approximately 20-30 minutes.

What are the possible benefits?

You will be making an invaluable contribution to development and rollout of national guidance on how people's mental health needs are assessed and managed in Australian primary care.

What are the possible risks?

If you agree to participate, the information provided to the University will have your name and contact details attached. The information will be transferred securely and while we make every effort to that it is kept private, we cannot guarantee that no one outside the research team will be able to access it.

Some people may feel uncomfortable providing their views and experiences of mental health services. Should you feel distressed, you are free to stop the phone conversation at any time and seek additional support through Lifeline Australia 13 11 14 or speak to your preferred health provider.

Do I have to take part?

No. Participation is completely voluntary, and you can choose to participate in one or both parts of the project. If you do decide to participate you are able to stop at any time.

It's totally up to you whether or not you agree to provide your information to the University, and your decision won't have any impact on your relationship with your PHN, service providers, or the care you receive.

If you agree to provide your information to the University and are selected to participate in a telephone interview, this is also voluntary. If you do participate you will be audio recorded, however you will not be required to identify yourself on the audio recording.

If you wish to withdraw from the project you may do so, however if we have already used the information you provided in published reports or presentations we will not be able to withdraw these.

Will I hear about the results of this project?

The findings of this Review will be submitted to the Department of Health in 2020 and a summary report will then be made available to participants. Findings may also be presented at conferences and submitted for publication in academic journals, subject to Department of Health approval.

What will happen to information about me?

Your mental health information will be transferred securely from where it is collected to the University of Melbourne. At the University, only the research team will have access to the raw data (although your mental health service providers and PHN may also retain a copy of the information they collect). For the purposes of this project, information will be stored securely at the University of Melbourne until its retention is no longer in the public interest or until 5 years after final publication of project findings, whichever is the latter. Your privacy will be protected as much as possible; findings will be collated across the 9 participating PHNs and comments will not be attributed to particular individuals. However due to the potentially small number of participants in some PHN catchments, we cannot guarantee that you will not be identifiable.

Who is funding this project?

This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

Where can I get further information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact the research team at imh-gp@unimelb.edu.au.

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

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. 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 Manager, Human Research Ethics, Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Melbourne, VIC 3010. Tel: +61 3 8344 2073 or Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au. All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.