

Participant Information Sheet

“Medical Cannabis: Knowledge, Attitudes and Expectations amongst NZ Health Care Professionals and their Patients”

Thank you for considering taking part in my study.

Who am I?

My name is Karen Oldfield and I am a Doctoral student in Clinical Research at Victoria University of Wellington and Medical Research Fellow at the Medical Research Institute of New Zealand. The Medical Research Institute of New Zealand is an independent medical research organization that is dedicated to improving knowledge about important public health problems in New Zealand.

Why are we doing this study?

The aim of the study is to find out what doctors and patients in New Zealand currently know about medical cannabis and its uses, their feelings around discussions about medical cannabis and how they would like information about medical cannabis to be delivered to them. For the purposes of this study medical cannabis is defined as “any use of cannabis plants and/or medications derived from cannabis that have been used by a patient to treat a medical condition”.

This is a currently a topical issue, especially with recent moves to make law changes in New Zealand. I hope that this study will give us information to create an educational tool pertinent to medical cannabis in NZ for use by both health care professionals and their patients, allowing for informed discussions to take place for the benefit of all involved. Understanding current knowledge will also help in the future planning of clinical trials to determine evidence for how we use medical cannabis in the future.

This research has been approved by the Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee #25835.

Who is being asked to participate?

I am surveying a selection of New Zealand doctors (General Practitioners and Hospital Specialists/Trainees) and a group of adult patients associated with each of their specialties. You must be over 18 years of age to participate in this study. The study aims to interview approximately 40 General Practitioners, 80 Hospital Specialists and 400 patients.

How are we doing the study?

The study will be a questionnaire administered either in person via iPad/written or online via a survey link, you may choose which you prefer. On the iPad you will be asked to click on the survey link below which will connect you to a questionnaire. The questionnaire contains between 10-12 questions and is expected to take 5-10 minutes to complete. If you are unable to take the time today to fill in the questionnaire, you can access the survey via the following link and complete it online:

<https://is.gd/OncPatientQ>

In relation to the questionnaire we will not ask you for personally identifying information such as name, birth date or address, however you will be asked general characterising information such as medical condition, age-range, gender and ethnicity.

At the end of the patient questionnaire there is an optional question/link about becoming a patient advocate for future development of clinical trials. A patient advocate is consulted during the process of development of a clinical trial to encourage input from the trials target population, allowing for concerns and ideas about the trial to be shared with the trial developers. If you are interested, you may choose to write your contact details here and place this form in the box provided or you can contact us directly via the email address or phone number provided.

All information collected will be treated in a confidential manner and will not be disclosed to any other agencies.

What will happen to the information collected?

Once all the surveys have been completed the information will be securely stored, analysed and reported. The study findings will be reported and published in peer reviewed journals and used in my PhD dissertation. The findings may also be presented at academic conferences.

Can I choose to withdraw my answers?

Due to the fact this questionnaire contains no personal identifiers I will not be able to remove your answers after the survey is complete as I will be unable to identify which answers you gave. At any time you may choose not to complete the questionnaire, however once you have clicked the submit button it is implied that you are happy for your answers to be used in this study.

Thank you again for taking the time to consider participating in our study! If you are happy to proceed, please click the link below or complete the paper questionnaire.

If you have any questions or problems, who can you contact?

If you have any concerns arising from the process of taking this questionnaire please contact:

Student:

Name: Dr Karen Oldfield
Ph: (04) 805-0147
Email: karen.oldfield@vuw.ac.nz

Supervisor:

Name: Dr Irene Braithwaite
Role: Deputy Director
Medical Research Institute of New Zealand
Phone: (04) 805-0245
Email: irene.braithwaite@vuw.ac.nz

Human Ethics Committee information

If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Victoria University HEC Convenor: Dr Judith Loveridge. Email hec@vuw.ac.nz or telephone +64-4-463 6028.