



Does online asynchronous education for Primary Care improve GP knowledge or confidence in rheumatic disease management?

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information carefully before deciding whether or not to participate in the research evaluating this educational initiative. If you decide to participate we thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you and we thank you for considering our request.

What is the Aim of the Project?

The aim of the project is to investigate if an online continuing education course that provides updates in rheumatology for GPs will effectively improve their knowledge and confidence in assessing and managing of rheumatic conditions in a persistent way.

What Types of Participants are being sought?

GPs from all of New Zealand

What will Participants be asked to do?

To contribute to the research component (that is in addition to your participation in the CoRE education programme), participants will

1. Consent to their participation of the research.
2. Answer a survey consisting of 50 clinical case-based MCQs and indicate the confidence in your answer immediately after completing all 10 learning modules (or 6 months after enrolment) and again 3 months later.
3. As part of the first survey after course completion, answer questions giving feedback about perceived usefulness of the course and learner satisfaction.

Please be aware that you may decide not to take part in the project without any disadvantage to yourself.

What Data or Information will be collected and what use will be made of it?

The following data will be collected:

1. Demographic data such as gender, age, years as a GP location (urban, rural), practice size; *(to describe the participants as a group)*

2. Course participation (video watching, time to completion etc.); *(to describe overall course participation)*
3. Scores of pre- and post-course MCQ tests and confidence in answer; *(to describe educational impact)*
4. Responses to the online surveys *(to describe educational impact and learner experience)*

The data will be analysed by the research team, which includes Dr. Rebecca Grainger, Anya Dai, and Associate Professor Andrew Harrison (Otago) and Dr Doug White (Rheumatologist, Waikato DHB). All data will be stored on password protected computers and the university secure networks.

The data collected will be securely stored and only the researchers mentioned above can access to them. Data obtained as a result of the research will be retained for at least 5 years in secure storage.

Can Participants change their mind and withdraw from the project?

You may withdraw from participation in the project at any time and without any disadvantage to yourself.

What if Participants have any Questions?

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact

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