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Community pharmacists and people at risk of suicide: an examination of experiences, attitudes, and stigma

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

(1) What is this study about?

You are invited to take part in a research study about survey pharmacists' experiences with people at risk of suicide. This study aims to explore Australian and Canadian pharmacists' experiences of patients at risk of suicide, and explore pharmacists' current knowledge and attitudes towards suicidality. You have been invited to participate in this study because you are a practicing pharmacist in Australia, and your response is essential for this study. This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research study. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research. Please read this sheet carefully and ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Participation in this research study is voluntary. So it's up to you whether you wish to take part or not.

By completing this survey you are telling us that you:

- ✓ Understand what you have read
- ✓ Agree to take part in the research study as outlined below
- ✓ Agree to the use of your personal information as described.

You will be given a copy of this Participant Information Statement to keep.

(2) Who is running the study?

The study is being carried out by the following researchers:

- Dr Claire O'Reilly, Lecturer in the Faculty of Pharmacy, The University of Sydney
- A/Prof Timothy Chen, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Pharmacy, The University of Sydney
- Professor Alan Rosen, Professor in the Brain & Mind Centre, The University of Sydney
- Professor Luis Salvador-Carulla, Professor in the Brain & Mind Centre, The University of Sydney
- Ms Stephanie Ewart, community member, Sydney, Australia
- Prof David Gardner, Professor of Pharmacy & Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University, Canada
- A/Prof Andrea Murphy, Associate Professor in the College of Pharmacy, Dalhousie University, Canada
- Prof Stan Kutcher, Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, Dalhousie University, Canada

- Prof Fred Burge, Professor in the Department of Family Medicine Dalhousie University, Canada
- Ms Dani Himmelman, Community Member, Halifax, Canada

(3) What will the study involve for me?

Your participation in this project will be via the completion of an online survey. There are 4 sections:

- I. Demographics
- II. Attitudes towards suicide questionnaire
- III. Stigma of suicide scale, short-form
- IV. Pharmacist experiences with people at risk of suicide

Please follow the link provided to complete the survey.

(4) How much of my time will the study take?

The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

(5) Who can take part in the study?

An Australian pharmacist with current or recent experience working in community pharmacy practice.

(6) Do I have to be in the study? Can I withdraw from the study once I've started?

Being in this study is completely voluntary and you do not have to take part. Your decision whether to participate will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else at the University of Sydney. Your answers are completely anonymous. You do not have to answer questions that you do not want to answer. Submitting your completed questionnaire is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw your responses any time before you have submitted the questionnaire. Once you have submitted it, your responses cannot be withdrawn because they are anonymous and therefore we will not be able to tell which one is yours.

(7) Are there any risks or costs associated with being in the study?

It is possible that your participation in this survey will lead you to think about experiences that were and possibly continue to be upsetting to you. If you feel distressed by your participation in this survey, you are advised to contact the Pharmacists' Support Service of Australia on 1300 244 910 or at <http://www.supportforpharmacists.org.au/>

(8) Are there any benefits associated with being in the study?

There will be no direct benefit to you in participating in this research; however, this research may inform the development of tailored programs to support and assist pharmacists managing patients at risk of suicide. Therefore, the findings of this study may be of potential benefit to you, in the future.

You will have the choice of participating in an independent prize draw for a \$150 grocery gift certificate for participating in the survey once you have completed and submitted your survey. The draw is not linked to the survey thereby protecting the anonymity of the survey responses.

(9) What will happen to information about me that is collected during the study?

By completing this survey, you are agreeing to us collecting your responses. Your information will only be used for the purposes outlined in this Participant Information Statement, unless you consent otherwise. Your information will be stored securely and your identity/information will be kept strictly

confidential, except as required by law. Study findings may be published, but you will not be individually identifiable in these publications.

(10) Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you are welcome to tell other people about the study.

(11) What if I would like further information about the study?

If you would like to know more at any stage during the study, please feel free to contact Claire O'Reilly on 02 9351 2729 or claire.oreilly@sydney.edu.au.

(12) Will I be told the results of the study?

You have a right to receive feedback about the overall results of this study. The results of this study may be published in a journal article. Even though you will not receive individual notification about the publication, it will be distributed through the Faculty of Pharmacy. Results will also be made available through pharmacy organisations and through social media and participants can contact the research team if they would like to receive a summary of results directly.

(13) What if I have a complaint or any concerns about the study?

Research involving humans in Australia is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC). The ethical aspects of this study have been approved by the HREC of the University of Sydney [2016/464]. As part of this process, we have agreed to carry out the study according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007). This statement has been developed to protect people who agree to take part in research studies. If you are concerned about the way this study is being conducted or you wish to make a complaint to someone independent from the study, please contact the university using the details outlined below. Please quote the study title and protocol number.

The Manager, Ethics Administration, University of Sydney:

- **Telephone:** +61 2 8627 8176
- **Email:** ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au
- **Fax:** +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile)

This information sheet is for you to keep