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| **PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT**  |

***GP chronic hepatitis B screening audit in Melbourne’s west***

You are invited to participate in the above audit, which is being conducted by Dr Karen Linton (cohealth Joslin clinic GP) 575A Barkly St Footscray West and supported by the clinical services medical manager west, Natalie Calleja and the clinical services director, Jane Canaway. Your name and contact details have been found on the internet based on you working in the former MRNWMML catchment and the data drawn from the Hepatitis B mapping project 2014.. This project has been funded by the Macedon Ranges & North Western Melbourne (MRNWMML) legacy grant auspiced by Victoria University (VU) and has been approved by the cohealth human ethics advisory group (HEAG).

The aim of this audit is to improve screening for chronic hepatitis B and increasing the number of patients diagnosed by practical example. Should you agree to participate, you would be asked to contribute by completing the pre and post audit Questionnaires and the audit itself. To comply with the RACGP criteria for 40 category 1 QI points this audit will take at least 6 hours.

The questionnaires and audit will be aimed at increasing your knowledge and confidence in screening, diagnosis and management of Chronic hepatitis B infection and immunizing at risk patients. The audit will run similarly to a BEACH audit in that 30 consecutive patients you see during a week’s consulting will be audited. You will be screening these patients for hepatitis B risk factors and following up serology results.

We intend to protect your patients’ anonymity and the confidentiality of your responses to the fullest possible extent, within the limits of the law. Your name and contact details will be kept in a separate, password-protected computer file from any data that you supply. This will only be able to be linked to your responses by the researchers, for example, in order to know where to send your interview transcript for checking. In the final report no GP names or practice names will be included. We will remove any references to personal information that might allow someone to guess your identity; however, you should note that the number of people carrying out the audit will likely be no more than thirty and hence a small chance that someone may still be able to identify you.

Once the results arising from this research have been collated,, a brief summary of the findings will be made available by researchers upon application. It is also possible that the results will be presented in an academic paper. The data will be kept securely at cohealth Footscray for five years from the date of publication, before being destroyed.

Please be advised that your participation in this study is completely voluntary. Should you wish to withdraw at any stage, or to withdraw any unprocessed data you have supplied, you are free to do so without prejudice. Your decision to participate or not, or to withdraw, will be completely independent of your dealings with the RACGP and we would like to assure you that it will have no effect on any other RACGP QI& CPD activities.

If you would like to participate, please indicate that you have read and understood this information by signing the accompanying consent form and emailing Dr Karen Linton. You will then be contacted to arrange a mutually convenient time for you to provide you with the audit.

Should you require any further information, or have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact either of the researcher Dr Karen Linton E: Karen.linton@cohealth.org.au, T 9912 2000; M 0409 004 234 or her manager at cohealth Natalie Calleja E: Natalie.calleja@cohealth.org.au or the cohealth Ethics Advisory Group contact Catherine Joyce E: Catherine.joyce@cohealth.org.au