

HREC Project Number: 65955
Project: Strengthening Care for Children

Principal Researcher: Prof Harriet Hiscock
Version Number: 1.3 **Version Date:** 14/08/2020

Thank you for taking the time to read this **Participant Information Statement and Consent Form**. We would like to invite you to take part in the Strengthening Care for Children (SC4C) project.

The SC4C project is testing a new model of care aiming to strengthen GP confidence and knowledge in paediatric care and reduce paediatric referrals to hospital Emergency Departments and Outpatient clinics. The model seeks to do so through the development of an educational relationship between GPs and the Paediatricians from The Royal Children's Hospital (in Victoria) and the Sydney Children's Hospital Network (in New South Wales). The SC4C project offers an exciting opportunity to partake in an evidence-based research intervention that aims to strengthen your paediatric skillset through professional collaboration.

1. What is the research project about?

This research project aims to strengthen care for paediatric patients in primary care while decreasing referral rates to outpatient clinics and emergency departments through a new model of care. The SC4C model has been previously implemented in a Pilot study and found to improve family trust in and preference for GP care, and increase GP confidence in paediatric care, and reduce GP referrals to specialist paediatric services.

The model consists of: GP-Paediatrician co-consulting sessions, monthly case study discussions held at the GP practice, and email/telephone support provided by paediatricians to GPs in between.

The project will be undertaken within 22 practices, 11 in the north western Melbourne region and 11 in central eastern Sydney.

2. Who is running the project?

This project, funded through a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) partnership grant, is being led by Murdoch Children's Research Institute (MCRI) under Professor Harriet Hiscock (paediatrician).

The study team includes staff from Murdoch Children's Research Institute, The Royal Children's Hospital, the Sydney Children's Hospital Network, the University of New South Wales, and the University of Melbourne.

3. Why am I being asked to take part?

Your Practice has signed up to take part in the SC4C project, and we are asking all GPs at your practice who see paediatric patients to participate.

4. What do I need to do in this research project?

The SC4C model will be implemented in your practice for 12 months. You will not be asked to travel outside of your practice for your participation in this project.

As a participating GP in this project you will be asked to:

1. attend education and training events as required
2. record reason for visit and referral activities for all children you see (<18 years) in your existing electronic medical record
3. seek specialist Paediatrician advice via study email and phone services as needed
4. attend patient co-consultations with the study Paediatrician at your practice
5. attend and present paediatric cases at monthly 60-minute case study discussions held at your practice, and keep information shared about patients during the multi-case discussions confidential within the discussion group
6. complete and return project surveys (2) in a timely fashion
7. Agree to have non-identifiable data extracted on all children you see (<18-years), including provider number, patient demographics (e.g. sex, age, postcode), reason for visit, prescriptions, testing ordered, and referral information

5. Can I withdraw from the project?

You can withdraw from the project at any time for any reason. If you withdraw from the project we will use any information already collected unless you tell us not to.

6. What are the possible benefits for me and other people in the future?

Participation in this project will provide you with the opportunity to strengthen your paediatric care through collaborative education with a paediatrician. Participating GPs will be eligible for RACGP CPD Points.

Your participation in this project will provide useful information for assessing the efficacy of the SC4C model as a tool to strengthen paediatric care at the primary health care level.

7. What are the possible risks, side-effects, discomforts and/or inconveniences?

There are no expected risks, side-effects and/or discomforts in participating in this project. You may experience some inconvenience in completing the components required of your participation in the project. However, the study team will ensure they offer adequate support to lessen any inconvenience in completing these components.

Although there are no expected negative outcomes for participation in this project, if any unforeseen or unknown events arise during the undertaking of this project the study team will ensure that participants are informed and sufficiently supported.

8. What will be done to make sure my information is confidential?

Your name and the practice in which you work will be recorded by the study team for the purpose of tracking who has completed the online surveys but will not be attached to the survey responses to ensure that your responses are non-identifiable.

The surveys you complete will be entered into REDCap. REDCap is a secure, web-based application for building and managing online surveys and databases, developed by Vanderbilt University. REDCap is hosted on MCRI infrastructure and is securely maintained. All data transmissions between users and the REDCap server are encrypted. The study team, as well as the Ethics Committee, will have access to this information for research related purposes only.

At the conclusion of the study, all identifying participant data will be destroyed and final study data will be stored in a non-identifiable format. As per the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, study records and non-identifiable data will be kept for a minimum of 5 years following the completion of the study, after which time the records may be kept indefinitely or destroyed.

9. Will I be informed of the results when the research project is finished?

Non-identifiable results of the project will be made available through your practice, and a summary of the study results will be forwarded to each participating practice.

Results will be submitted for publications in peer-reviewed journals and presented at relevant conferences. Principal Investigator Harriet Hiscock holds the primary responsibility for publication of the results of the study.

10. Who should I contact for more information?

If you would like more information about the project, please contact:

Name: Prof Harriet Hiscock
Contact telephone: 03 9345 6910
Email: harriet.hiscock@rch.org.au

You can contact the Director of Research Ethics & Governance at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne if you:

- have any concerns or complaints about the project
- are worried about your rights as a research participant
- would like to speak to someone independent of the project.

The Director can be contacted by telephone on (03) 9345 5044.

CONSENT FORM

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- I have read this information statement and I understand its contents.
- I understand what I have to do to be involved in this project.
- I understand the risks I could face because of my involvement in this project.
- I voluntarily consent to take part in this research project.
- I have had an opportunity to ask questions about the project and I am satisfied with the answers I have received.
- I understand I will receive a copy of this Information Statement and Consent Form.

Optional Consent

At the end of running the SC4C model in your practice, we would like to interview GPs about the model including what worked and did not work well. Please indicate below if you are happy to be contacted about this or not. By consenting to be contacted, you are not consenting to do an interview– you are only consenting to hear more about this. We will contact you to describe this further and you can then decide whether you want to take part.

<input type="checkbox"/> I do	<input type="checkbox"/> I do not	Consent to be contacted for a structured interview about my experience of participating in this project
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Participant Name

Participant Signature

Date

