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Supplementary Material

COVID-19 vaccinations and counselling: a mixed-methods survey of Australian general practice in July 2021

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Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey
Fifteenth in the series

Last series, we heard a little bit about vaccine hesitancy in general practice. This series, we are asking you to share how vaccine hesitancy in is impacting clinical practice. Some questions are the same as previous surveys to look at change over time, and some are different to address immediate concerns and policy implications.

FLASH QUESTION A: Is your clinic delivering COVID-19 vaccines?

- Yes, Pfizer Yes, AstraZeneca No

FLASH QUESTION B: In what proportion of consults is COVID-19 vaccination being discussed ...?

- Not happening A few (<25%) Some (25-50%) A lot (50-75%) Almost all (75-100%)

FLASH QUESTION C: How much time does vaccine counselling add to your average consultation?

[number] minutes

FLASH QUESTION D: How is vaccine counselling impacting your practice (administration or consultations)?

[free-text response]

FLASH QUESTION E: What issues are coming up among your patients (tick as many as apply)?

- No concerns
- Concerns about vaccines in general (e.g., including Fluvax, MMR etc).
- Concern about any COVID-19 vaccine
- Access to any COVID-19 vaccine
- Access to specific COVID-19 vaccines (e.g., Pfizer over AstraZeneca)
- Concern about the AstraZeneca vaccine specifically
- Concern about Pfizer vaccine specifically
- Other (please specify)

1. What is the capacity of your practice to test patients for COVID-19? *Please select the best answer.*

- 1 – We have no current capacity.
- 2 – We have capacity based on federal government guidelines/restrictions only.

- 3 – We have capacity beyond federal government guidelines/restrictions based on clinician judgement.
- 4 – We can test anyone for any reason.

2. Is the current status of COVID-19 (infections and vaccination program) in Australia putting unusual strain on your practice?

- 1 – no impact
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 – severe impact

3. Has COVID-19 led to any of the following stressors in your practice? *Please check all that apply.*

- GPs out due to illness or self-quarantine
- GPs out due to working in respiratory clinics, or elsewhere as part of the pandemic response
- Nursing staff out due to illness or self-quarantine
- Front desk out due to illness or self-quarantine
- Reusing PEP and/or relying on homemade PPE options
- Financial barriers for getting PPE
- Supply challenges for acquiring PPE
- Lack of financial recompense for testing
- Practice layoffs or leave arrangements of clinicians or staff
- Limiting well/chronic care visits for COVID-19 related reasons
- Large decrease in patient volume
- Patients who struggle with virtual / tele-health (internet or technical limitations)

4. We would like to understand how much virtual care/telehealth is now happening: a little, some, a lot, or none. Over the past fortnight, how much of the care you've provided has generally been...

... handled through video?	<input type="radio"/> A little (<20%)	<input type="radio"/> Some (20-50%)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (>50%)	<input type="radio"/> Not happening
... handled through telephone consultations?	<input type="radio"/> A little (<20%)	<input type="radio"/> Some (20-50%)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (>50%)	<input type="radio"/> Not happening
... handled through other e-consultation? Including asynchronous tech-based care, provided via a chat function, or text-based app or webpage.	<input type="radio"/> A little (<20%)	<input type="radio"/> Some (20-50%)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (>50%)	<input type="radio"/> Not happening
... handled in person?	<input type="radio"/> A little (<20%)	<input type="radio"/> Some (20-50%)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (>50%)	<input type="radio"/> Not happening
... reimbursed?	<input type="radio"/> A little (<20%)	<input type="radio"/> Some (20-50%)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (>50%)	<input type="radio"/> Not happening

5. OVER THE PAST 2 WEEKS, approximately how many suspected COVID-19+ or COVID-19+ people have you...

... tested in your practice?	<input type="radio"/> None	<input type="radio"/> A few (1-9)	<input type="radio"/> Some (11-39)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (40+)	<input type="radio"/> Unsure
... triaged and referred for testing?	<input type="radio"/> None	<input type="radio"/> A few (1-9)	<input type="radio"/> Some (11-39)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (40+)	<input type="radio"/> Unsure
... been unable to get tested?	<input type="radio"/> None	<input type="radio"/> A few (1-9)	<input type="radio"/> Some (11-39)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (40+)	<input type="radio"/> Unsure
... treated in your practice?	<input type="radio"/> None	<input type="radio"/> A few (1-9)	<input type="radio"/> Some (11-39)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (40+)	<input type="radio"/> Unsure
... sent to the ED or hospital for treatment?	<input type="radio"/> None	<input type="radio"/> A few (1-9)	<input type="radio"/> Some (11-39)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (40+)	<input type="radio"/> Unsure
... quarantined at home?	<input type="radio"/> None	<input type="radio"/> A few (1-9)	<input type="radio"/> Some (11-39)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (40+)	<input type="radio"/> Unsure
... monitored at home?	<input type="radio"/> None	<input type="radio"/> A few (1-9)	<input type="radio"/> Some (11-39)	<input type="radio"/> A lot (40+)	<input type="radio"/> Unsure

So that we can better understand your answers, please respond to the following:

6. Is your practice...

... owned by a GP	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... independent and part of a larger group?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... state or territory funded clinic (eg Community HC or walk in centre)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... owned by a community trust or not for profit?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... a rural practice?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... an ACCHO?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... larger than 3 GPs?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... a fully bulk billing practice?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... an urgent care centre/after-hours practice?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... a GP led respiratory clinic?	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No
... a Commonwealth vaccination clinic	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input type="radio"/> No

7. Is there anything else you would like us to know about your experience in primary care during this pandemic? Please reflect on both positive and negative experiences

[free-text response]

8. What is your role within your practice? (tick as many as apply)

General Practitioner (practice owner)

- General Practitioner (other)
- Practice Nurse
- Primary Care Nurse Practitioner
- Practice Manager

9. What is the postcode of the practice where you did most of your clinical work in the last fortnight?
[number]

10. Would you like to receive an email invitation to this survey each week?

- Yes
- No

11. Please enter your email address here to receive the survey invitation. We will not use your email address for anything else and it will not be shared for any reason.

[free-text]

Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey, Fifteenth in the series

Summary results

Flash Question A: Is your clinic delivering COVID-19 vaccines?

Response	Number	Per cent
Yes, Pfizer Comirnaty	25	34.2
Yes, AstraZeneca Vaxzevria	64	87.7
No	8	11.0

Flash Question B: In what proportion of consults is COVID-19 vaccination being discussed?

Response	Number	Per cent
Not happening	0	0.0
A few (<25%)	15	20.5
Some (25-50%)	22	30.1
A lot (50-75%)	30	41.1
Almost all (75-100%)	6	8.2

Flash Question C: How much time does vaccine counselling add to your average consultation?

Extra time spent on vaccine counselling in consultations (minutes)	
mean	SD
6.04	2.91

Flash Question D: How is vaccine counselling impacting your practice (administration or consultations)?

Free text responses

Flash Question E: What issues are coming up among your patients (tick as many as apply)?

Response	Number	Per cent
No concerns	9	12.3
Concerns about vaccines in general (e.g., including Fluvax, MMR etc.)	9	12.3
Concerns about efficacy of any COVID-19 vaccine	29	39.7
Concern about safety of any COVID-19 vaccine	68	93.2
Access to any COVID-19 vaccine	40	54.8
Access to specific COVID-19 vaccines (e.g., Pfizer over AstraZeneca)	66	90.4
Concern about the AstraZeneca vaccine specifically	68	93.2
Concern about Pfizer vaccine specifically	8	11.0

What is the capacity of your practice to test patients for COVID-19?

Response	Number	Per cent
We have no current capacity	36	49.3
We have capacity based on federal government guidelines/restrictions only	16	21.9
We have capacity beyond federal government guidelines/restrictions based on clinician judgment	9	12.3
We can test anyone for any reason	12	16.4

Is the current status of COVID-19 (infections and vaccination program) in Australia putting unusual strain on your practice?

Response	Number	Per cent
1- no impact	1	1.4
2	5	6.8
3	23	31.5
4	28	38.4
5 – severe impact	16	21.9

Has COVID-19 led to any of the following stressors in your practice?

Response	Number	Per cent
GPs out due to illness or self-quarantine	52	71.2
GPs out due to working in respiratory clinics, or elsewhere as part of the pandemic response	12	16.4
Nursing staff out due to illness or self-quarantine	45	61.6
Front desk out due to illness or self-quarantine	46	63.0
Reusing PPE and/or relying on homemade PPE options	14	19.2
Financial barriers for getting PPE	17	23.3
Supply challenges for acquiring PPE	27	37.0
Lack of financial recompense for testing	13	17.8
Practice layoffs or leave arrangements of clinicians or staff	13	17.8
Limiting well/chronic care visits for COVID-19 related reasons	41	56.2
Large decrease in patient volume	10	13.7
Patients who struggle with virtual / tele-health (internet or technical limitations)	49	67.1

We would like to understand how much virtual care/telehealth is now happening: a little, some, a lot, or none. Over the past fortnight, how much of the care you've provided has generally been...

Proportion	A little (<20%)	Some (20-50%)	A lot (>50%)	Not happening
... handled through video?	19 (26.0)	2 (2.7)	1 (1.4)	51 (69.9)
... handled through telephone consultations?	39 (53.4)	27 (37.0)	7 (9.6)	0 (0.0)
... handled through other e-consultation?	11 (15.1)	2 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	60 (80.2)
... handled in person?	3 (4.1)	5 (6.8)	65 (89.0)	0 (0.0)
... reimbursed?	6 (8.2)	11 (15.1)	55 (75.3)	1 (1.4)

Over the past 2 weeks, approximately how many suspected COVID-19+ or COVID-19+ people have you...

Proportion	None	A few (1-9)	Some (11-39)	A lot (40+)	Unsure
... tested in your practice?	51 (69.9)	15 (20.5)	2 (2.7)	3 (4.1)	2 (2.7)
... triaged and referred for testing?	12 (16.4)	33 (45.2)	20 (27.4)	7 (9.6)	1 (1.4)
... been unable to get tested?	65 (89.0)	5 (6.8)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (4.1)
... treated in your practice?	60 (82.2)	5 (6.8)	4 (5.5)	2 (2.7)	2 (2.7)
... sent to the ED or hospital for treatment?	58 (79.5)	10 (13.7)	2 (2.7)	0 (0.0)	3 (4.1)
... quarantined at home?	48 (65.8)	19 (26.0)	1 (1.4)	1 (1.4)	4 (5.5)
... monitored at home?	63 (86.3)	7 (9.6)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	3 (4.1)

So that we can better understand your answers, please respond to the following:

Is your practice...

Response	Number	Per cent
... owned by a GP	51	69.9
... independent and part of a larger group?	21	28.8
... state or territory funded clinic (eg Community HC or walk in centre)?	1	1.4
... owned by a community trust or not for profit?	3	4.1
... a rural practice?	21	28.8
... an ACCHO?	3	4.1
... larger than 3 GPs?	66	90.4
... a fully bulk billing practice?	11	15.1
... an urgent care centre/after-hours practice?	10	13.7
... a GP led respiratory clinic?	3	6.8
... a Commonwealth vaccination clinic	5	6.8

What is your role within your practice? (tick as many as apply)

Response	Number	Per cent
General Practitioner (practice owner)	19	26.0
General Practitioner (other)	53	72.6
Practice Nurse	0	0.0
Primary Care Nurse Practitioner	0	0.0
Practice Manager	2	2.7