

Supplementary Material

New Zealand pharmacists' views regarding the current prescribing courses: questionnaire survey

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INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Study title:	<i>Optimising pharmacist prescribing: implications for training and service delivery</i>	
Principal investigator:	Mariam Awad	Contact phone number: 0223423283

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether to participate. 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?

New Zealanders are living longer (over 65 years), which means that social and health services will have to adapt, and it challenges the health system to find ways of providing services that are still affordable. The total net migration to New Zealand reached 63,800 during the fiscal year 2018 (ended July 2018), where New Zealand's current migration rate is almost four times as high as the United Kingdom and the United States (Stats NZ).

Currently most healthcare is undertaken by general practitioners (GPs) in primary care, however this increase in population demand will stretch an already depleting workforce. New Zealand's GP shortage will worsen as many flag their impending retirement; 47% intend to retire the next decade and 27% in the next five years (The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners).

To ensure optimal health outcomes and continued access to medicines for all New Zealander's we need to refine the new primary care model. Prescribing of medicines by health professionals other than general practitioners (non-medical prescribing; NMP) is set to grow throughout New Zealand in response to recent legislative changes to address this need. We need to see more pharmacists become qualified to prescribe to help alleviate this pressure.

The aim of this study is to determine the barriers, facilitators and learning preferences for New Zealand pharmacists to undertake authorised non-medical prescribing training.

What Type of Participants are being sought?

The intention of this study is to survey New Zealand pharmacists who have not completed a prescribing training program to investigate the barriers and facilitators facing them to enroll into the course.

What will Participants be Asked to Do?

Should you agree to take part in this project, you will be asked to complete a questionnaire.

- Questionnaire will be sent to all the candidate pharmacists in August 2020.
- Questionnaire will be followed up bi-weekly (for 2 reminders) after being sent out.

What Data or Information will be Collected and What Use will be Made of it?

Data collected will be collated to investigate barriers and facilitators facing New Zealand pharmacists to undertake current provided prescribing course, tackling their familiarity with the course, the prerequisites for entry, structure or framework of the course, funding, structure of the course, learning outcomes, satisfaction, course elements, method of delivery, assessment, barriers and facilitators for enrolling into the course, if there are any aspects they are intending to change.

Every attempt will be made to preserve your confidentiality and anonymity. And data collected will be securely stored in a locked file cabinet at the offices of the principal investigator.

The results of this study are intended to be shared in the following forum:

- Publication in a peer-reviewed journal and/or conference abstract
- Chapter of a PhD research program.
- With education providers and policy makers e.g. University of Otago, Health Workforce

If requested, results will be shared back to participants for ongoing review and discussion in established peer support networks. This information will also be available to provide support to applications for future evaluation of proposed pharmacists prescribing program in New Zealand.

The results of the project will also be available in the University of Otago Library (Dunedin, New Zealand).

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 of any kind.

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 either:

Mariam Awad (PhD researcher) Pharmacist Wellington	Phone number: +64223423283 Email: awama109@student.otago.ac.nz
Dr Alesha Smith (Supervisor) Senior Lecturer School of Pharmacy University of Otago	Telephone number: (03) 479 5052 Email: alesha.smith@otago.ac.nz

This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph. +643 479 8256 or email gary.witte@otago.ac.nz). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.