
INFORMATION SHEET

Title: End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC)

The roles and responsibilities of community pharmacists supporting older Australians with palliative care needs within a community setting

Researchers:

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Description of the study:

This study is part of the project entitled '*End of Life Directions for Aged Care (ELDAC)*' undertaken by the Flinders University. This is a study of pharmacists working in dispensing and non-dispensing roles with older Australians in the community setting. It will gauge their understanding of the palliative care needs of older Australians living in their own home or residential aged care homes. This project is supported by the ELDAC Project Team based in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

Purpose of the study:

This project aims:

- To determine the dispensing and non-dispensing roles and responsibilities of pharmacists working in the community in supporting older Australians with palliative care needs living in their own home or a residential aged care home;
- To explore pharmacists' awareness, knowledge and understanding of older Australians with palliative care needs; and
- To ascertain pharmacists' education, training and clinical information needs relating to delivery of evidence-based palliative care services.

What will I be asked to do?

Survey participants: The survey will seek information about your specific role, knowledge and understanding of palliative care needs for older Australians currently living in their own home or a residential aged care home. You will also be asked about your educational, training and clinical information needs in relation to the palliative care. Participation is entirely voluntary. The survey will take about 20 minutes to complete online.

What benefit will I gain from being involved in this study?

The sharing of your experiences will assist in understanding the role and needs of the pharmacist workforce, which will contribute to workforce planning. In addition, it will enable more targeted undergraduate and postgraduate education, and continuing professional development opportunities in line with contemporary pharmacy practice.

Will I be identifiable by being involved in this study?

All data collected from you is treated as strictly confidential and will be kept securely on the Flinders University server with access limited to the research team. This includes all survey data. No participant will be individually identifiable in the data or in any report or publication. It is a requirement that ELDAC share data collected from you with an external evaluator enlisted by the Australian Government Department of Health. This data will be used to evaluate the program only - not the research, and any personal information that could identify you (i.e. contact information or other direct identifiers) will be removed before being shared with the auditor.

Are there any risks or discomforts if I am involved?

Given that healthcare professionals work with patients who are ill and nearing the end of their lives as a regular part of their work, it is anticipated that there are some risks for survey participants in considering the subject matter of end of life care. However, if for any reason participants do feel emotional discomfort as a result of their participation, they can contact free telephone counselling services such as Beyond Blue (1300 22 46 36) or Lifeline (13 11 14). Alternatively, participants may wish to contact their organisation's Employee Assistance Program provider (if available). If you have any concerns regarding anticipated or actual risks or discomforts, please raise them with the researcher.

How do I agree to participate?

Participation is voluntary. You are free to withdraw from the survey at any time without effect or consequences.

Survey participants: If you have elected to do the survey, commencement of the survey indicates that you have read the above information and you voluntarily agree to participate. You do not need to complete a formal paper-based consent form. Commencing the survey or submitting your responses online will be taken as your consent to participate.

How will I receive feedback?

On project completion the outcomes of the project will be summarised on the ELDAC website.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and we hope that you will accept our invitation to be involved.

This research project has been approved by the Flinders University Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (Project number 8517). For more information regarding ethical approval of the project the Executive Officer of the Committee can be contacted by telephone on 8201 3116, by fax on 8201 2035 or by e-mail human.researchethics@flinders.edu.au