

Participant Information Sheet

Project Title: Understanding patients' perspectives on medicine use for neck and lower back soft tissue injury.

Investigators

- Assoc Prof Jane Nikles, Principal Research Fellow, Recover Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
- Dr. Rachel Elphinston, Senior Research Fellow, Recover Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
- Dr. Carrie Ritchie, Senior Research Fellow, Recover Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland
- Professor Michele Sterling, Director of the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Recovery Following Road Traffic Injuries and RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland

Purpose of the Study

Thank you for your interest in this research project. Over many years, researchers at RECOVER Injury Research Centre at the University of Queensland have been working to better understand pain and disability associated with neck and back soft tissue injuries. One area that has not been studied extensively is patient experiences of pain management treatments.

The aim of this study is to explore your experience with pain management and how medication may have been used to treat your injury. We would like to hear about treatments that were offered to you, medications that you used, and your understanding of that medication. We would also like to find out about your attitudes to medication for pain, and any information you remember that was provided by your doctor, nursing staff and/or pharmacist about that medication. Additionally, we will ask some general questions about you (eg age, first language etc).

The best way to gather this information is through talking with you directly during a one-on-one interview. The data gathered from these interviews will allow us to better understand peoples' experiences of the treatment they received for their injury. Gaining a more in-depth understanding of people's experiences will provide us with information needed to help us guide the development of other options to treat pain, such as yours, and the most effective ways these options might be discussed with patients such as yourself.

This Participant Information Sheet explains the research project and what is involved if you decide to participate. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research project. Please read this information carefully and ask the research team any questions you may have about the study. Participation in this research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you do decide to participate, you are free to withdrawal at any time without affecting your relationship with The University of Queensland.

Study Eligibility

There are some requirements that need to be met for you to participate in this research project.

- All participants need to be 18 – 65 years old
- Experienced neck or back pain as a result of an injury that occurred within the past 12 months
- Visited a GP OR attended an Emergency Department but were not admitted for this neck or back injury
- Used a prescription or over-the-counter medicine for this neck or back injury, and
- Are fluent in English

Individuals are not eligible to participate if another, more serious, injury such as a broken bone was experienced; or if you have had neck or back pain for longer than 12 months.

Participation in the Study

If you decide to participate in this study, you will be asked to participate in a 30 – 40 minute, one on one telephone interview. A research assistant experienced with doing interviews will conduct the session using an interview guide. The interview is designed to be flexible so that you are able to fully express yourself. At any time during the interview you may choose not to answer a question and the interviewer will move on to the next question. The interviews will be audio-taped for research purposes however your name and identity will be removed from the transcribed document so that all responses are completely confidential.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid. A \$20 electronic shopping voucher will be provided to you to thank you for your time.

Risks and Benefits of Participation in the Study

There may be no direct benefit to you for participating in our study but your contribution will help us gain a better understanding of patient experiences of using medications for neck and back pain following soft tissue injury.

The project is designed to address our aims in a way that minimises risk, inconvenience and discomfort. It is possible, but unlikely, that completion of the telephone interview may cause some mild discomfort or distress related to sharing your experience. Please notify the investigator should this occur, and feel free to decide not to answer questions that you do not feel comfortable answering. If there are concerns, the investigator may suggest that you see your GP or other healthcare provider.

Withdrawal from the Study

Participation in this research project is voluntary. If you decide you no longer want to participate, please notify one of the investigators. You may withdraw at any stage without providing a reason up until results are published. There will be no adverse consequences associated with withdrawal from this study.

Confidentiality

Your answers to the interview questions will remain confidential at all times. The interviews will be transcribed, however, any potentially identifying information (e.g. name and telephone number) will be removed prior to data analyses and will not be included in reports, presentations and publications. The data will be stored securely on a password protected folder at the RECOVER Injury Research Centre, The University of Queensland. All information relating to your participation in the project will be treated confidentially and reported anonymously.

Access to Results

A summary of the overall results of the study will be available to all participants at the completion of the project upon request. If you wish to have access to your individual results, they will be available to you upon request to Dr. Jane Nikles: ujnikle@uq.edu.au or 0408 599 033.

Further Information and Who to Contact

For further information about this study, please contact Dr. Jane Nikles: ujnikle@uq.edu.au or 0408 599 033.

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the study, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, then you may contact the Ethics Coordinator on +61 7 3365 3924 or email humanethics@research.uq.edu.au.

University of Queensland Ethical Clearance

This study adheres to the Guidelines of the ethical review process of The University of Queensland and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. Whilst you are free to discuss your participation in this study with project staff (contactable on 0408 599 033 or ujnikle@uq.edu.au), if you would like to speak to an officer of the University not involved in the study, you may contact the Ethics Coordinators on +617 3365 3924 / +617 3443 1656 or email humanethics@research.uq.edu.au.