

The Hamilton Centre is Victoria's new Statewide Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. The Hamilton Centre functions to improve outcomes for Victorians affected by co-occurring mental illness and substance use or addiction through specialist clinical services, workforce education and training and best practice research.

You are invited to take part in this research project – 'Hamilton Centre Opioid Pharmacotherapy Survey'. You have been invited to participate as a Victorian Public Health Service employee, who works in, or knows about how opioid pharmacotherapy is offered in your Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Service.

What is the purpose of this research?

Clients with mental illness and substance use often face barriers when accessing opioid pharmacotherapy. However, these barriers have not been formally studied.

The purpose of this study is to understand how opioid pharmacotherapy is provided to clients within Victoria's Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services and identify areas or services requiring additional educational support or resources.

We are looking for participants with different levels of experience and working in a variety of practice settings, including regional and metropolitan and inpatient and community settings, from across Victoria.

This research is led by A/Prof Shalini Arunogiri and Ms Alice Frank. The researchers involved in this project have no conflicts of interest to report.

What does participation in this research involve?

Participation in this research involves completion of an online anonymous survey. You will be asked to share your experiences in providing, or supporting clients who are prescribed opioid pharmacotherapy.

This survey is voluntary and will involve 15-20 minutes to complete online. Your anonymous responses will be collected for analysis and stored securely in Eastern Health's REDCap server. Only the project team will have access.

As the survey is anonymous, there will be no participant follow up. However, you may choose to share your contact details at the end of the survey via separate weblink if you would like further information or future contact from the Hamilton Centre. Your contact details will not be linked to any survey responses.

There are no costs associated with participating in this research project, nor will you be paid.

Participation in this research project is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. Your decision whether to take part or not to take part will not affect your relationship with The Hamilton Centre, Turning Point or Eastern Health.

What are the possible benefits and risks of taking part?

Possible benefits for Victorian Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services may include gaining an understanding of how opioid pharmacotherapy is currently offered and where there might be challenges or barriers for clients and staff.

Finding any service gaps or barriers can help the Hamilton Centre Clinical Network develop relevant training and resources for clinicians. The main benefit of this research is aiming to build the capacity of the Victorian mental health workforce to support and provide opioid pharmacotherapy, which will benefit clients with both mental illness and substance use that access these services.

There are no expected risks or disadvantages for participants in taking part in this research project. If you do not wish to answer a question for any reason, you may skip it, or you may stop completing the survey.

What if I withdraw from this research project?

If you decide to participate, you may withdraw at any time before finishing the survey, by not completing the survey. Since the survey is anonymous, you will not be able to withdraw once the survey is completed. You should be aware that information already provided up to the time you withdraw will form part of the research project results.

What happens when the research project ends?

The survey will be open for 3 months but may be stopped unexpectedly for a variety of reasons. If this happens, the survey weblink will not work anymore. The Hamilton Centre will also tell Victorian Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services through their usual networks.

Results will be shared with Victorian Area Mental Health and Wellbeing Services through the Hamilton Centre Clinical Network. The findings will inform ongoing work by the Hamilton Centre, including the development of educational support and other resources.

As this type of survey has not been done before, it is likely that the project results will have wider interest and will be prepared for presentation at conferences or meetings and/or publication.

This study has received ethical approval by the Eastern Health HREC committee – study reference LR23-071-103626.

This is an anonymous survey. Completion and submission of the survey will indicate implied consent to participate in this research study.

If you want any further information about this project, you can contact the researchers via email (shalini.arunogiri@monash.edu or alice.frank@easternhealth.org.au).

Thank you for your time.