School of Rural Medicine
Faculty of Science and Health

Charles Sturt University

Attitudes and experiences influencing General Practitioner involvement in psychostimulant prescribing in primary care settings: A qualitative study (v.1.1)

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

Researchers:

Name:	**Position:**	**Organisation:**
Assoc/Prof Rachel Rossiter	Coordinating Principal Supervisor/Investigator	School of Rural Medicine
Bryce Lacey	Student Researcher (4th year medical student)	School of Rural Medicine
Dr Sarah Mollard	Co-investigator /Clinical supervisor	Healthy North Coast PHN

INVITATION

You are invited to participate in a research study about the attitudes and experiences influencing General Practitioner involvement in psychostimulant prescribing in primary care settings: A qualitative study

This study is being conducted by Bryce Lacey and Associate Professor Rachel Rossiter from the School of Rural Medicine, Charles Sturt University and Dr Sarah Mollard the Clinical Editor Lead and Medical Educator from the Healthy North Coast PHN. Charles Sturt University is an Australian University, TEQSA Provider Identification: PRV12018. Charles Sturt University CRICOS Provider: 00005F

Before you decide whether you wish to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

What is the purpose of this study?

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a complex neurodevelopmental condition affecting 6-10% of children and adolescents and 2-6% of adults. Diagnosis and management have required specialist referrals, with long waiting times and inequitable access to care. ADHD incurs significant social and financial costs, including increased healthcare expenses, productivity losses, and lifelong impacts on well-being and educational outcomes. In response to access issues, Healthy North Coast PHN and NSW Health have developed several models of care for ADHD, allowing GPs to prescribe medication and manage treatment more independently. Anecdotally, this transition of ADHD management from specialists to primary care is increasing access for those needing diagnosis and management. However, the voice of GPs in Northern NSW now tasked with comprehensive assessments and ongoing monitoring is yet to be reported. This study is designed to undertake semi-structured online interviews with GPs to explore their attitudes and experiences of this change to care provision. Findings will inform future education and program development.

Why have I been invited to participate in this study?

We are seeking General Practitioners/Rural Generalists who are working in primary care settings as a clinician.

What does this study involve?

If you agree to participate, you will be interviewed by Bryce Lacey (4th year medical student at the School of Rural Medicine) online via Zoom at a time suitable for you. Examples of topics which will be discussed in the interview include:

- Your attitudes towards prescribing psychostimulants for ADHD
- Experiences that have influenced your decisions to prescribe or not to prescribe psychostimulants
- Barriers that you have encountered when considering or prescribing psychostimulants for ADHD

The interview will be audio recorded and transcribed. The audio recording can be stopped at any time if you need a break. The interview may last up to 60 minutes. Once the interview has been transcribed, a copy will be sent to you so you have the opportunity to edit the transcription.

Are there risks and benefits to me in taking part in this study?

There are potential risks associated with participating in this research. You may find talking about your attitudes and experiences to be difficult. The interview may raise questions which could provoke uncomfortable emotions such as frustration. If at any point during the interview you need a break, we will take a break or stop completely. Bryce will check with you prior to the interview that you are comfortable to proceed and that you have access to support after the interview if necessary. Other risks may involve time taken away from other work, we are flexible for date and time of when you would like to complete the interview.

There will be no direct benefit to you in participating in this research. However, you may find value in having the opportunity to have your voice and experience heard on an important issue, The possible benefits of participating in this study is that you can have the opportunity to share your experiences about the transition of ADHD diagnosis and management from specialist services to primary care. Your experiences could assist the PHN and other relevant organisations to better understand GPs attitudes and experiences of factors that influence expanding your scope of practice. Your input can better inform planning of initiatives that seek to expand GP scope of care and capability.

If you experience emotional distress because of participating in the interview, we recommend that you seek support from one of the following:

- DRS4DRS (24/7 Help Line 1300 374 377)
- NSW Health Employee Assistance Program (if you also work for NSW Health)

How is this study being paid for?

Healthy North Coast is providing reimbursement for your time if you choose to participate in this project ($173.00 + GST). There is no other funding for this project. It is being undertaken as a course requirement for the Doctor of Medicine in which the student researcher is enrolled. An oral presentation and a project report will be completed to fulfil the course requirements.

Will taking part in this study (or travelling to) cost me anything, and will I be paid?

With the exception of the time spent participating in the interview, there is no cost to participating in the interview as the interview will be conducted online via Zoom.

What if I don't want to take part in this study?

Participation in this research is entirely your choice. Whether or not you decide to participate, is your decision and will not disadvantage you. Only those who give their informed consent will be included in the project.

What if I participate and want to withdraw later?

Consent can be withdrawn at any time, up to 2-weeks after your interview. To withdraw from the study, please email the researcher listed at the bottom of this information sheet. There will be no adverse impacts if you choose to withdraw.

How will my confidentiality be protected?

All efforts will be made to ensure confidentiality and de-identification of information that you provide. The information that you provide will be kept confidential, and your name and other identifying information will not be used in any written or verbal reports of this study. All recorded and transcribed data will be de-identified. You will be invited to choose a pseudonym that will be used if direct quotations are included in reports. The only people who have access to the transcripts before they are de-identified will be the CSU members of the research team. All researchers are bound by ethical requirements to maintain confidentiality. All electronic information, including signed consent forms and de-identified transcriptions of the interviews will be stored on a locked folder on CSU OneDrive. At the completion of this study, all de-identified material will be kept in this folder folder for at least 5 years before being destroyed.

What will happen to the information that I give you?

The interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed. If you would like to review the transcript of your interview you will be provided with this so you can edit or change the transcript. You will have two weeks to complete this. After the two weeks, the transcriptions will be analysed. This project is being undertaken as a course requirement for the Doctor of Medicine in which the student researcher is enrolled. An oral presentation and project report will be completed to fulfil the course requirements. The results will also be compiled into a report and submitted to the Healthy North Coast PHN. In the event of publication, the link to the publication will be posted on the Healthy North Coast PHN website.

What should I do if I want to discuss this study further before deciding?

If you would like further information, please contact:

Associate Professor Rachel Rossiter
Mobile number: 0403 624 131
Email address: rrossiter@csu.edu.au

Who should I contact if I have concerns about the conduct of this study?

Charles Sturt University's Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project (H23608). If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this project, you may contact the Committee through the Research Integrity Unit via the following contact details:

The Presiding Officer
Human Research Ethics Committee
Research Integrity Unit
Locked Bag 588
Wagga Wagga NSW 2678
Phone: (02) 6933 4213
Email: ethics@csu.edu.au

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated thoroughly, and you will be informed of the outcome.

Conclusion

Thank you for considering this invitation. This information sheet is for you to keep.