Faculty of Health and Medicine
Hunter Medical Research Institute Building

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Exploring awareness, barriers and enablers that affect rehabilitation decisions and equitable access to rehabilitative care.

INFORMATION FOR INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS

You are invited to take part in a research study that seeks to understand what factors affect decisions to take part in different rehabilitation programs.

What is the research about?

The overarching goal of this research is to ensure people have access to the most appropriate rehabilitation for their needs. To do this, we need to work with the factors that support access to different rehabilitation programs, and make sure any barriers that prevent or complicate access can be overcome. Having your expert opinion and hearing your thoughts and experiences will help make this happen.

Information gained in the study will help to identify where gaps exist in patient knowledge, as well as where professional guidelines can be created, updated or improved to support best referral practises. It may also include the development of more patient resources communicating the benefits of each type of program. ***Please note, the purpose of these interviews is not to evaluate your clinical practice.***

With different rehab options becoming available, and the climate around funding for these programs changing, we would like to understand the current factors that you consider when referring patients to different types of rehab (e.g. as an in-patient, out-patient, in the home or community-based programs).

Interviews with health professionals are one part of this study. Another part of this research involves talking to rehab participants to understand how they decided on a certain form of rehabilitation. By talking to both patients and health professionals, we can work with both groups to ensure appropriate information is provided, and that all rehab programs are accessible for when people need it most.

Who is leading this research?

The study is being conducted by the Centre for Rehab Innovations (CRI), University of Newcastle. The study is financially supported by a research grant from Medibank Health Research Funding and The University of Newcastle, Priority Research Centre for Stroke and Brain Injury. These funding bodies have no role in research design, data analysis, interpretation or reporting of results.

Who can participate in the research?

We are inviting health professionals who are involved in referring patients to different rehabilitation programs to be involved in this research. We would like to understand what information they consider when referring patients and designing different rehab programs. We understand that this will vary between patients, based on diagnosis, prognosis and individual needs. What we are hoping to explore though, is the general method you use when determining patients' rehabilitation needs and relevant rehabilitation programs. These interviews will be conducted in English.

Each interview will take around 20-30 minutes and be conducted via video link (Zoom), audio-recorded and transcribed by Zoom (privacy policy). The de-identified transcripts will be used by the research team for thematic analysis.

Study Results

If you choose, we can send you a copy of the study report at the completion of the study.

What would you be asked to do if you agree to participate?

If you agree to take part in an interview, we will send you an email with the Zoom details for when and how to join.

During this interview, an experienced research team member will ask you some questions about your role and the types of patients you see. You will then be invited to discuss your referral practice or program design with the interviewer. We are conducting these interviews to identify any gaps where information can be created to make it easier for you to refer patients to or design rehabilitation programs that best meet patients' needs.

While these discussions will be kept confidential, the video sessions will be audio recorded. This is so we can collate responses and analyse the scripts. We will email you a copy of the transcript to review. If you would like any of your comments removed before analysis, please let us know within two (2) weeks of the email being sent. This script will be de-identified for analysis, which means your name will not be included.

What options do you have?

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You do not have to take part. If you choose to be involved, you can cease your involvement at any time without having to give a reason. We will still send you the transcript and you can also request for certain information to not be included in the analysis. Whatever your decision, please be assured that it will not affect your ongoing relationship with the research team.

What are the risks and benefits of participating?

Risks: There are minimal risks associated with participation in this study. You do not need to take part in any part of the discussion which makes you feel uncomfortable.

Benefits: Your involvement in this study will help us create information resources, clinical and patient referral guidelines to fill gaps in current knowledge and/or practise. The outcomes may not have any immediate direct benefits to you.

Will the study cost you anything?

Your participation will not cost anything except your time. Unfortunately, we are unable to pay you for your involvement.

How will your privacy be protected?

All the information collected from you for the study will be treated confidentially, and only the researchers named below will have access to this information. Access to any identifiable data will be restricted to members of the research team, unless you have consented otherwise; or disclosure is required by law in order for us to comply with our regulatory obligations.

The overall results of this study may be presented at a conference or in a scientific publication, but individual participants will not be individually named or identifiable.

At the end of this study, all research data and transcripts will be stored confidentially on password protected university computers for a minimum period of 5 years from completion of research and managed/stored in accordance with the University's Research Data and Materials Management Guideline (https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=72) or any successor Guideline, and applicable University of Newcastle policy provisions (as amended from time to time).

Further Information

When you have read this information, a member of the research team will discuss it with you and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to take part, we will send you a consent form to sign, and then organise the next step. If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact the team leader, A/Prof Nicki Hodyl at Nicolette.hodyl@newcastle.edu.au or on 0477 668 355.

Thank you for considering this invitation to participate in the research study. This information statement is for you to keep.

A/Professor Nicki Hodyl

Nicolette.hodyl@newcastle.edu.au

Research team and contact details

A/Professor Nicki Hodyl Team Leader Nicolette.hodyl@newcastle.edu.au 0477 668 355	Ms Gillian Mason Lead - Consumer engagement Gillian.mason@newcastle.edu.au
Profesor Michael Nilsson Director CRI Michael.Nilsson@newcastle.edu.au	Adrian O'Malley Consumer partner ade@iprimus.com.au
Professor Michael Pollack Clinical advisor Michael.Pollack@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au	Stephen Ward Consumer partner stephen.ward@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au
Professor Rohan Walker Co-Investigator E: Rohan.walker@newcastle.edu.au	Tracy Ward Consumer partner tracy.ward@muswellbrook.nsw.gov.au
Dr Karen Ribbons Project management and logistics Karen.ribbons@newcastle.edu.au	

Complaints about this research

This project has been approved by the University's Human Research Ethics Committee, Approval No. H-2020-0324. Should you have concerns about your rights as a participant in this research, or you have a complaint about the manner in which the research is conducted, it may be given to the researcher, or, if an independent person is preferred, to the Human Research Ethics Officer, Research & Innovation Services, The University of Newcastle, University Drive, Callaghan NSW 2308, Australia, telephone (02) 4921 6333, email Human-Ethics@newcastle.edu.au.