



**Project Title:** Quick COVID-19 Clinician Survey

**Protocol Number:** ETH. 2020/273

**Principal investigator:** Professor Kirsty Douglas

### **General Outline of the Project:**

**Background:** While primary care provides the forefront of medical care for Australians, we currently have no data to identify and show how primary care is contributing to the management of COVID-19 and related stressors. This fortnightly survey is to better understand the response and capacity, as well as the potential impact of the pandemic on general practice. Results will be rapidly relayed to inform organizational, and Australian Government policy.

**Description & Methodology:** The “Quick COVID-19 Primary Care Survey” occurs every few months. Each survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete and includes some core questions and “flash” questions. Suggestions for flash questions are always accepted – they are designed to respond to the most pressing information needs. A new survey and link are generated fortnightly on Friday and closes on the following Thursday at 10pm AEST. Survey invitations are distributed by email and via newsletters of professional societies and organizations, and practice-based research networks. Invitations include links to the most recent survey findings. Each survey offers participants the option to sign up for an automated mailing to receive the new survey directly.

**Participants:** All General Practitioners and Practice Nurses planning to provide care at the same practice for at least 12 months are eligible to participate in this study. NB: Registrars and students are not eligible for this survey.

**Use of Data and feedback:** Summary data is available online each month [here](#). Summary data will be provided to organizations upon request (e.g. RACGP and APNA), and Australian government to inform pandemic planning and primary care policy. After study completion, this data will be compared to data simultaneously collected in the USA, Canada, and New Zealand to compare different COVID-19 impact and responses.

**Project Funding and organization:** The Australian National University in partnership with the Larry A.Green Center, British Columbia University, and the University of Auckland.

### **Participant Involvement:**

**What does participation entail?** Completion of a **short, <5 minute anonymous online survey**. The survey is **available every few months** to observe how primary care response and capacity changes across the pandemic. Some questions will change to allow response to policy implementation, and to understand practice changes informed by practice level data. **You can choose to complete the survey as frequently or infrequently as you like. However, more data means a bigger voice for general practice.** By continuing with this survey, you are consenting for your data to be used by the research team.

**Benefits:** Data can be a voice for general practice and primary care during the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions. No individual or organisation is eligible to receive compensation for completion of this survey.

**Risks:** The risks of being involved are minimal to you as provider and to your patients.

**Implications of Participation:** Your participation in this research is voluntary. Your choice to participate or declining to participate in this study will not have any consequences. If you select to be contacted personally, **you can withdraw your consent for emails at any time** by emailing the principle investigator ([Kirsty.a.douglas@anu.edu.au](mailto:Kirsty.a.douglas@anu.edu.au)) and requesting your email address to be removed. We cannot exclude your data after you have completed the survey as we will be unable to identify individual responses.

**Confidentiality:** This survey is anonymous. You may choose to provide your email to receive regular surveys. Your contact details will automatically be removed from your responses via computer

algorithm to maintain anonymity. No individual response can be linked to an email address. Any contact details will be stored in a locked drive, available only to the research team. After data collection is complete, your contact details will be permanently deleted, and you will not receive further communication from the research team. Your contact details will not be shared with third parties, unless required by law.

**Data Storage:** All data collected will be stored on locked drives, available only to the research team. Contact details will be permanently deleted at the end of the study (December 2022). The data will be kept for a minimum of 5 years after last publication. Data will be stored on password protected drives, within a secure university facility.

**Queries and Concerns:** If you have any questions about the study you can contact Professor Kirsty Douglas on (02)5124 4946 or [kirsty.a.douglas@anu.edu.au](mailto:kirsty.a.douglas@anu.edu.au)

**Ethics Committee Clearance:** This study has been approved by the ANU Human Research Ethics Committee (ETH. 2020/273). If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this study, and do not feel comfortable discussing this with study staff, you may contact the Ethics Committee Secretariat who is nominated to receive complaints about research projects. Phone: (02) 6125 6782 or Email: [human.ethics.officer@anu.edu.au](mailto:human.ethics.officer@anu.edu.au).