

'Say Ahhh' – What do GPs, dentists and community pharmacists do about bad breath?

Information Sheet for Practices

Researchers:

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What are the aims of this study?

The 'Say Ahhh' project aims to improve management of patients with halitosis by general practitioners (GPs), dentists and community pharmacists. This project is to be conducted in three phases. The first phase will explore the experiences and perspectives of GPs, dentists and community pharmacists of halitosis. The second phase will explore patients' experiences and attitudes concerning halitosis. The final phase will draw from the two previous phases to develop a collaboration model between GPs, dentists and community pharmacists to better detect, screen and manage patients with halitosis. This project has the potential to improve interprofessional collaboration in the management of patients with halitosis.

We are presently undertaking the second phase of the project which is conducting interviews with patients in pharmacies, dental clinics and GP clinics. In order to develop a collaboration model involving different health professionals, it is necessary for us to understand patients' experiences and opinions regarding halitosis.

Why have I been invited to participate?

You have been invited to participate because you are in charge of a pharmacy/dental/GP clinic with patients who may have experiences with halitosis. We would like to explore further their experiences when interacting with health professionals regarding their current/ ongoing experience with halitosis. Their input has the potential to inform future professional development and improve collaborative care amongst GPs, dentists and community pharmacists to better the outcomes for patients with halitosis.

What will happen during the study?

Should any patients agree to participate, they will be invited to attend an interview in a quiet area on the premises of your pharmacy/clinic (with your consent) and conducted by a University of Melbourne Dental Student. During the interview, the patients will be asked questions about their experiences with health professionals in managing their halitosis.

The student researcher will take notes during the interview. The patients will also be allowed to read the notes after the interview and comment on their accuracy if they wish. Patients' contact details will not be collected unless they express interest to receive a summary of the results at the end of the project. Even then, their contact details will not be linked to their interview data.

We envisage the interviews to run for no longer than 10 minutes. The patients may stop the interview or

withdraw their participation at any time without having to give any reason. If they withdraw, any unprocessed information they have given will be removed. At the conclusion of the interview, participants will be presented with a \$5 coffee voucher to thank them for their time.

How will the practice's privacy and confidentiality be protected?

Your practice will be used primarily to recruit and interview patients/clients. No additional information, other than your contact details for the requirements of obtaining informed consent will be collected. This information will be treated as strictly confidential. Your practice and your patients/clients who agreed to participate will not be identified in any reports or publications of our project findings. However, due to the small sample size of the study, anonymity cannot be guaranteed. To minimise their risk of being identified, the information provided will be used or quoted very cautiously when reporting and publishing. All raw data will be held on University premises and stored in locked filing cabinets and password-protected computers in accordance with University of Melbourne guidelines.

All information pertaining to this project will be retained for 5 years after the last publication or public release of the study.

Does the practice or my patients have to take part?

Involvement in the project is completely voluntary. Should participants wish to withdraw at any stage, they are free to do so without prejudice.

How will I receive feedback?

A brief summary of the findings will be available at the conclusion of the study. If you wish to receive this report, please notify the student researcher who will then email you the summary once it is available.

Where will the study findings be published?

The research will be published in a thesis submitted by the student researcher as part of our research group's Doctor of Dental Surgery assessment. We will also be endeavouring to present the results as journal publications and at relevant conferences.

How do I confirm my participation?

If you agree to have your patients/clients participate in the interview, please indicate that you have read and understood the information in this document by signing the accompanying consent form.

How do I get further information?

If you would like to know more about our study, please email Dr Phyllis Lau, Prof Ivan Darby, Amreen Hussain, Stephanie Ibrahim, Sarah Guanqing Hu, Jin Sung Ju, Michael Huang, or Michael Khng. The contact information is listed at the top of this PLS.

Has this project been approved?

This research project has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of The University of Melbourne. If you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of this research project, which you do not wish to discuss with the research team, you should contact:

The Manager, Human Research Ethics,
Office for Research Ethics and Integrity
University of Melbourne, VIC 3010
Tel: +61 3 8344 2073
Fax: +61 3 9347 6739
Email: HumanEthics-complaints@unimelb.edu.au

All complaints will be treated confidentially. In any correspondence please provide the name of the research team or the name or ethics ID number of the research project.



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Practice Consent Form

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I, (name)..... in charge of.....(pharmacy/dental/GP clinic) consent to having the dental student researchers recruit my patients/clients at my practice and my patients/clients take part in the study.

1. I have read and understood the Interview Participant Information Sheet which explains the aims of this project.
2. I understand that this project is for the purpose of research only and it has been approved by The University of Melbourne Human Research Ethics Committee.
3. I have been given the opportunity to ask the researchers any questions relating to the study and have received satisfactory answers.
4. I understand that my patients/clients' participation is voluntary and that they are free to withdraw their consent and any unprocessed data that they have provided at any time without prejudice or needing to give a reason.
5. I have been informed that any information provided will be treated as strictly confidential within the limits of the law. However, due to the small sample size of the study, anonymity cannot be guaranteed. To minimise the risk of my patients/clients being identified, the information provided will be used or quoted very cautiously when reporting and publishing.
6. I have been informed that all data will be stored securely at The University of Melbourne and will be responsibly destroyed five years after the release of the final publication relating to this data.
7. My patients will be informed their interview may be audio-taped.

Participant's Signature _____ Date _____

Researcher's name/Signature _____ Date _____

Would you like a brief report of the findings of this study upon its completion? Yes / No (circle one).

If you answered "Yes", please provide your contact details below:

email: _____ AND/OR

address: _____ AND

phone number: _____