

Falls Prevention in General Practice

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a study of perceptions and practices of general practitioners about the delivery of falls prevention assessment and management in everyday care of older people living in the community.

The aim of the study is to determine/identify the current practice of General Practitioners regarding falls risk screening, assessment, direct intervention and referrals to Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) and other community falls prevention clinics/programs.

Falls and fall related injuries have a considerable impact on the health, confidence and independence of older people and create an economic burden to the community and a strain on health care resources. With the ageing population trend set to continue, falls and fall related injuries are projected to impact an increasing sector of older people in coming years. General Practitioners are an important link in successful fall prevention care management. We hope to identify current practice for GPs in falls prevention on an international level, and as a GP you are invited to complete the study survey.

Who is carrying out the study?

The study is conducted by Dr Anne McIntyre, Occupational Therapy Lecturer at Brunel University London in collaboration with Associate Professor Dr Lynette Mackenzie Head of Discipline of Occupational Therapy at the University of Sydney, Australia.

What does the study involve?

If you agree to participate in the study, you will be asked to complete the following survey. **Survey questions are directed to everyday practice with older people aged 65+ (excluding nursing home residents).** No perceived risk or discomfort is anticipated by participating in this study.

How much time will the study take?

The survey is expected to take approximately 20 minutes to complete and has a total of 26 questions.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation in the study is completely voluntary and you are not under any obligation to consent to complete the survey. However, submitting a completed survey is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw any time prior to submitting your completed survey. Once you have submitted your survey anonymously, your responses cannot be withdrawn.

Will anyone else know the results?

All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers will have access to the results. All responses are anonymous. A report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report.

Will the study benefit me?

We cannot and do not guarantee or promise that you will receive any benefits from the study. However, the results will allow benchmarking on this topic between GPs in the UK and between GPs in Australia and the UK.

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes. Please direct any eligible colleagues to this on-line link: <https://brunel.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/falls-prevention>. The online survey will be live until 26th July 2016.

What if I require further information about the study or my involvement in it?

Please contact Dr Anne McIntyre at Anne.McIntyre@brunel.ac.uk or Michele Harvey at 1101426@my.brunel.ac.uk if you would like more information.

What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

Research ethics approval has been obtained from the Research Ethics Committees at the University of Sydney as well as the Department of Clinical Sciences at Brunel University London. In case of query or complaint, please contact the Chair of the Committee, Christina.victor@brunel.ac.uk.