

## INFORMATION SHEET – Patient interviews

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**Project title** *Improving the management of whiplash associated disorders by Physiotherapists and Chiropractors*

**Researcher's name** *Dr Saravana Kumar, International Centre for Allied Health Evidence, University of South Australia*

Thank you for your interest in this project. This project aims to explore issues relevant to implementation of a clinical guideline in the management of Whiplash Associated Disorders (WAD).

This project has been approved by the University of South Australia's Human Research Ethics Committee.

### **What is WAD?**

Whiplash Associated Disorders (WAD) represents a range of injuries to the neck which can be caused by a sudden distortion of the neck. WAD is commonly associated with motor vehicle accidents usually when the vehicle is hit from behind.

### **Who is conducting the project?**

Dr. Saravana Kumar from the International Centre for Allied Health Evidence, University of South Australia will be conducting this project. This project is part of a Fellowship provided to Dr. Saravana Kumar by NHMRC NICS TRACsa MAC.

### **What is being implemented?**

This project aims to pilot an implementation strategy for a newly developed clinical guideline in the management of WAD. This clinical guideline, developed by TRACsa here in South Australia using internationally recognised guideline development processes, aims to provide health care practitioners with best practice in the management of WAD.

### **Patient interviews**

An integral part of project involves undertaking interviews of patients on their perspective of physiotherapy and chiropractic care. The aim of conducting interviews is to explore patients' perspective of their current physiotherapy and chiropractic care. Findings from interviews will provide information on consumers' perspectives of physiotherapy and chiropractic care.

You have been invited to participate in the interview to provide your perspective on the issues highlighted above. If you are willing to participate in the interview, researchers will seek your written consent to participate in the interview. The interview will take place at the practice where you are seeing your Physiotherapist or Chiropractor and will last for approximately 10-15 minutes. If you consent to participate in the interview, researchers will be using written notes and audiotapes to record and document themes and ideas emanating from the discussion. These written notes and audiotapes will then be summarised at a later stage as a written reference. Your participation in the interview is entirely voluntary and you can withdraw from the research at any time of your convenience. Your withdrawal from this research will have no impact on your position or care. The data collected will not be used to pass judgements nor discriminate.

At the completion of this project (March 2010), multiple copies of a one page summary of the project will be provided to physiotherapy and chiropractic practices from which patients and practitioners were recruited for this project. In this document, access to an online webpage will also be provided which will contain detailed information on processes and outcomes from this project.

Any personal information emanating from this project will remain **strictly confidential (and hence not released under any circumstances)** and will be held in a secure location for a period of five years at the International Centre for Allied Health Evidence, University of South Australia.

If you have any ethical concerns about the project or questions about your rights as a participant please contact the Executive Officer of this Committee, Tel 08 83023118, or email: [Vicki.Allen@unisa.edu.au](mailto:Vicki.Allen@unisa.edu.au).

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