EXPLORING THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY PHARMACY TO SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMERS AND CARERS

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PHARMACISTS and PHARMACY STAFF

Dear Participant,

Griffith University is undertaking a study that will form the basis of recommendations for models of care for community pharmacies to support consumers with common mental illness (such as depression and anxiety) to better manage their medicines. This project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing as part of the Fifth Community Pharmacy Agreement Research and Development Program managed by The Pharmacy Guild of Australia. The research team is led by Assoc. Professor Amanda Wheeler, Professor David Shum, Dr Laetitia Hattingh, Dr Jane Fowler, Dr Jasmina Fejzic and Mrs Denise McConnell (Griffith University). The team members who will be conducting the interviews are Dr Catherine Clarke (Project Manager), Mrs Kathy Knox (Senior Research Assistant), and Ms Amary Mey (PhD Candidate). Collectively, team members possess a diverse range and depth of multidisciplinary experiences from mental health, pharmacy and behavioural change education, practice and research fields.

What’s it all about?
In this three-year research project starting in late 2011, we will investigate the medication needs of mental health consumers with mild to moderate mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety. Consumer expectations and experiences of community pharmacies will be documented and the data compiled will inform a major new strategy to train community pharmacists and pharmacy assistants to engage consumers to help them better manage their medications. The project can be summarised as follows:

1. Recruitment of pharmacists and pharmacy assistants and mental health consumers.
2. Completion of on-line training modules for CPD points and remuneration.
3. Delivery of intervention strategy (optional).

Who are we looking for?
We are seeking pharmacists and pharmacy assistants to take part in an exciting new program that explores the evolving role of the existing and potential relationships between mental health consumers, community pharmacy and other members of the primary care and mental health team. If you would like to learn more about the treatments for mental illness and how to help consumers to better manage their medication, this interactive study involving training modules for CPD points and remuneration is for you.

Information Sheet – Pharmacy Staff _revised
What’s involved?
We seek your support and the support of your staff to identify mental health consumers and carers, provide them with information about the project and invite them to participate. This involves a 2-month promotion of the project to consumers through information sheets when they present with scripts to manage depression or anxiety disorders. We also invite you to complete:

1. A pre-training on-line questionnaire (20-30 minutes).
2. Education package modules. The content of the modules will be informed by you and each should take about 45 mins to complete. There will be 6 – 8 modules for pharmacists and 3 – 4 modules for pharmacy assistants. Pharmacies will be randomised to a group that receives training first, and a group that receives training after the first group has completed.
3. A post-training on-line questionnaire (20-30 minutes). The group receiving training second will also complete a third questionnaire and will receive additional reimbursement for this activity ($50 for pharmacists; $25 for pharmacy assistants).

The financial reimbursement for participation will be provided at a rate of $200.00 per pharmacist and $100.00 per pharmacy assistant after the completion of the educational package and post-training questionnaire. In addition, the pharmacy will receive $50.00 if at least three pharmacy staff complete the training.

Furthermore, you will be invited to participate in the final stage of the project which involves the development and delivery of an intervention strategy with 10 mental health consumers to help them improve their adherence with medications. We will contact you about this at a later stage.

Are there any benefits to me?
You will receive training to enable you to:

- identify treatment strategies for depression and anxiety disorders;
- build and enhance your capacity to communicate better with people diagnosed with mental illnesses;
- develop you ability to work with people with mental illness, their carers and families through education and support; and,
- improve understanding of adherence issues.

What are the risks?
We do not anticipate any risks to you as a result of your participation in the study. Although interviews will be recorded, the information obtained will be de-identified for transcribing and analysis. Any personal information you provide will be stored securely at Griffith University, Logan Campus. Only the research team will have access to this information. Information you provide will be retained for a period of five years post publication and then destroyed.

Do I have to participate?
No. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage.
Ethical Clearance
This study has Griffith Human Research Ethics Committee approval (GU ref No: PHM/08/11/HREC). Griffith University conducts research in accordance with the National Statement of Ethical Conduct in Human Research. If you have any concerns or complaints about the ethical conduct of this research project you should contact the Manager, Research Ethics on (07) 3735 5585 or research.ethics@griffith.edu.au

If you would like to take part in the study, please complete and return the attached consent form. If you have any further questions please contact the research team on 1800 600 687 or email mentalhealth@griffith.edu.au

Thank you for your time.

Yours Sincerely,

A/Professor Amanda Wheeler
Project Leader
School of Human Services
Griffith University

Privacy statement
The conduct of this research involves the collection, access and/or use of your identified personal information. The information collected is confidential and will not be disclosed to third parties without your consent, except to meet government, legal or other regulatory authority requirements. A de-identified copy of this data may be used for other research purposes. However, your anonymity will at all times be safeguarded. For further information consult the University’s privacy Plan at www.griffith.edu.au/about-griffith/plans-publications/griffith-university-privacy-plan or telephone (07) 3735 5585.