

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

Digital collection of Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in osteopathic practice.

WHO IS DOING THE RESEARCH?

The project is an initiative of Osteopathy Australia which is the national peak body representing osteopaths in Australia.

WHAT IS THIS RESEARCH ABOUT?

This pilot project looks at the feasibility of digitally collecting self-reported data from patients receiving osteopathic treatment. The self-reported data will be about your injury/condition and how it affects your health and well-being. Ultimately, we may use this information to help us better understand the effectiveness of osteopathic interventions. The data will be collected via Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) which are questionnaires that ask about how your injury/condition affects you. The questionnaires can be scored each time they are completed which in turn can help us determine if you think a treatment is improving your condition. All data forwarded to Osteopathy Australia will be anonymous.

This research has received ethics approval from the Victoria University Human Research Ethics Committee (VUHREC).

Why have I been invited to participate and how long will this project go for?

You have been invited to participate as you are currently receiving osteopathic services for either a hip, knee, or back complaint. The project will run for approximately 24 months. However, you will only be invited to complete an initial questionnaire upon signing up followed by a questionnaire once a month for a period of three months.

How is this project being funded?

The project is funded by Osteopathy Australia. It is acknowledged that approximately 80% of osteopaths in Australia are consenting members of Osteopathy Australia.

How do I know if I am eligible to take part in the study?

Inclusion Criteria

- Patients currently seeing an osteopath for any hip, knee, or back conditions.
- Age 18-75 years
- English fluency

To be part of the project, you must be able to understand and agree that information about your health will be collected and shared with your osteopath and with Osteopathy Australia (the latter will only receive de-identified data).

What does my participation involve?

If you agree to take part in the study, you will be sent an electronic questionnaire that you will need to complete. After the initial questionnaire, a follow-up questionnaire will be sent once a month for three months whilst you remain under the care of your osteopath for the same condition. By consenting to participate, you consent for your deidentified data to be shared with Osteopathy Australia.

What are the risks of taking part in this project?

There are no foreseeable risks for you in participating in this project. The treatment you receive from your osteopath will be the same whether you participate in the project or not.

If when completing the PROMs surveys, you feel concerned about any information regarding your condition, please consult your osteopath and/or GP as soon as possible.

What information will be collected?

Your age, gender, the condition you are seeing an osteopath for, your PROM responses, and your PROM score.

Will my name appear anywhere?

No. The information passed on to researchers will be completely de-identified and confidential. No identifiable information e.g., your name, address, phone, date of birth, or Medicare number will be collected.

What will you use the information/data for?

The data collected will be used to help osteopathy Australia determine how feasible it is to digitally collect PROM data from patients who are using osteopathic services. The data may also be used to inform research on the effectiveness of osteopathic interventions, advocate for osteopathic services, and improve the quality of patient care given by osteopaths.

Do I have to participate, and can I change my mind later?

Participation is entirely voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. Choosing not to participate will not affect your routine treatment or your relationship with your osteopath/clinic. You can still see your osteopath as usual if you do not want to take part in this study.

If you decide to take part but change your mind later, you are free to withdraw from the project at any time. You will simply need to let your osteopath know that you would like to withdraw from the project so that the remaining questionnaires are not sent to you. Upon withdrawal, all your data will be removed from the study.

Confidentiality:

By providing consent, you consent to the researcher collecting and using your information for the purpose of this research project. All information will be treated confidentially and will be deidentified.

It is anticipated that the results of this research will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. In any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified.

What if I have any queries or concerns?

If you have any queries or concerns about the study, please feel free to contact the Chief Investigator, Dr Shamona Eaves, Ph: (02) 9410 0099, Email: seaves@osteopathy.org.au

NOTE:

Any queries about your participation in this project may be directed to the Chief Investigator listed above. If you have any queries or complaints about the way you have been treated, you may contact the Ethics Secretary, Victoria University Human Research Ethics Committee, Office for Research, Victoria University, PO Box 14428, Melbourne, VIC, 8001, email researchethics@vu.edu.au or phone (03) 9919 4781 or 4461.