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Full Project Title: International Survey on Staff Barriers and Facilitators to use of Point-of-Care Ultrasound for Assessment and Guided Vascular Access Cannulation in Haemodialysis.

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- Dr George Smith, Vascular Surgeon, Senior Lecturer, Hull York Medical School and Hull University Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, United Kingdom

Dear Renal Clinician

You are invited to take part in this research project, ‘International survey on staff barriers and facilitators to use of point-of-care ultrasound for guided vascular access cannulation.’ We are doing this study to examine renal clinicians practice for using point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) assessment and cannulation of arteriovenous fistula. Specifically, to answer the following questions:

- What are the interventions or supports that facilitate staff learning and use of POCUS in haemodialysis cannulation?
- What are the barriers that prevent staff from learning and implementing POCUS into their cannulation skill set?
- What are the global differences in particular barriers or facilitators?
- What are the cultural differences in barriers or facilitators?
WHAT IS THE RESEARCH ABOUT?

The purpose of this research/online survey is to explore barriers and facilitators to clinicians using point-of-care ultrasound for assessment and cannulation of vascular access in haemodialysis. Point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) has been available globally to use in haemodialysis units to aid successful cannulation since the mid-2000s. POCUS can be used for vascular access assessment, assisted cannulation (skin marking only) or real-time guided cannulation. Uptake of this adjunct device for cannulation has only sporadically been introduced into some haemodialysis units around the world, with varying degrees of implementation.

You have been invited to participate because you are a clinician who works in haemodialysis and are responsible for cannulation of arteriovenous fistulae and/or arteriovenous grafts.

WHAT DOES MY PARTICIPATION INVOLVE?

Participation in this study is voluntary. It is completely up to you whether or not you decide to take part.

If you decide to participate, you will click on a link to the online survey provided in the email invitation.

- Access to the survey is via a generic weblink. Submission of the survey is an indication of your consent.
- The survey should only take 5 minutes to complete.
- You can save and come back to the survey at a later time.
- You can change your mind at any time and stop completing the survey without consequences.

There is no expectation that there will be any direct benefit to you in completing this survey. However, we hope that the information will help us gather baseline data on POCUS assessment and cannulation practices in haemodialysis. This data may be used to inform the development of educational material or intervention programs in the future.

If you take part, it will not be possible to withdraw any information you provide. This is because it is anonymous, and we do not know who answered the questions in each survey.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS/INCONVENIENCE?

We don’t expect this survey to cause any harm or discomfort. However, if you experience discomfort or distress answering the questions, please discuss this with your supervisor.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO INFORMATION ABOUT ME?

As this data is collected anonymously, in any publication and/or presentation, information will be provided in such a way that you cannot be identified, except with your permission.
We are required to keep your survey responses for 7 years. They will be located in a secure password protected electronic folder behind the Deakin University Firewall that only the research team has access to.

It is anticipated that the results of this research project will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. The results of this research may also be shared through open access (public) scientific databases, including internet databases. This will enable other researchers to use the data to investigate other important research questions. Results shared in this way will always be de-identified by removing all personal information (e.g., your name, address, date of birth etc.) and/or any contextual information that could identify you.

If you wish to receive information about the publications, you can provide your email address at the end of the survey. This will be kept separate from your survey responses, so your responses remain anonymous. You do not have to provide an email address if you do not want the published information sent directly to you.

COMPLAINTS

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about your rights as a research participant, then you may contact:

The Human Research Ethics Office, Deakin University, 221 Burwood Highway, Burwood Victoria 3125, Telephone: 9251 7129, research-ethics@deakin.edu.au

Please quote project number [153-2022].

Yours Sincerely,

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