

Participant Information Sheet

Project Title: **Patient Experiences of Shared Care Following Surgery for Colorectal Cancer**

Who is carrying out the study?

Dr. Lawrence Tan, Dr. Giselle Gallego, Prof. Jenny Reath and Prof. Les Bokey, School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney

You are invited to participate in a study conducted by the Departments of General Practice and Surgery, and the Centre for Health Research, School of Medicine, University of Western Sydney.

What is the study about?

The aim of this study is to explore the barriers and facilitators to patients receiving good follow-up care from their GPs, surgeons and other health professionals once they have been discharged from hospital.

What does the study involve?

If you agree to participate in this study, we would like to talk to you as part of a group of 3-4 other people, or if being in a group is hard for you, in a one on one interview. At a date and time convenient to you, about your views and experiences regarding the care you received after you were discharged from hospital following colorectal cancer surgery. You could be interviewed in person or by telephone depending on what suits you best.

With your permission we will record the focus group or individual interview so that we can listen to what you have told us again afterwards. We will not talk to other people about the information that you give to us and we will not put your name in our research reports. After each focus group or interview we will write down what was said from the recording.

How much time will the study take?

We estimate that each focus group session will take between 1 and 2 hours. A one-on-one interview will take between 30 and 60 minutes.

Will the study benefit me?

You will not directly benefit from involvement in the study. Information collected during the focus group sessions and interviews will be used for further research and also may help to improve future medical consultations in general practice.

Will the study have any risks?

No risks or discomfort are expected from participating in this study, however should you experience any emotional upset during the interview you will be given the opportunity to withdraw immediately if you wish, and follow up with your regular doctor if necessary.

How is this study being paid for?

This study is being sponsored by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and the Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group. You will be offered a small gift voucher as a token of appreciation for your time.

Will anyone else know the results? How will the results be disseminated?

With your permission, we would like to digitally record and transcribe the interview for further analysis. Your responses will be kept private and de-identified prior to any further dissemination of the results through conferences and publications. Only the researchers will have access to identifiable information about participants. You will be given the opportunity to check a printed and de-identified version of the recorded interview if you wish to do so.

Can I withdraw from the study?

Participation is entirely voluntary: you are not obliged to participate and - if you do participate - you can withdraw at any time without giving any reason. Whatever your decision, it will not affect your medical treatment or your relationship with the researchers.

Can I tell other people about the study?

Yes, you can tell other people about the study by providing them with the chief investigator's contact details. They can contact the chief investigator to discuss their participation in the research project and obtain an information sheet.

What if I require further information?

When you have read this information, Dr. Lawrence Tan will discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact him at GPdept@uws.edu.au or (02) 4620 3933

What if I have a complaint?

This study has been approved by the University of Western Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee. The Approval number is H9067

If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this research, you may contact the Ethics Committee through the Office of Research Services on Tel +61 2 4736 0229 Fax +61 2 4736 0013 or email humanethics@uws.edu.au.

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully, and you will be informed of the outcome. If you agree to participate in this study, you may be asked to sign the Participant Consent Form.

The information sheet is for the participant to keep and the consent form is retained by the researcher.