

***Problematic use of opioids by people with cancer and pain:  
a qualitative study of physician experience and attitudes***

***UTS HREC REF NO. ETH18-2399***

**What's the research about?**

If you are a GP with experience of prescribing opioids to people with cancer and pain, we would like to invite you to take part in a qualitative study aimed at informing a balanced response from policy and practice to optimising benefits and minimising risks from opioids for people with cancer pain.

**What's involved?**

Participation involves a one-off 30 minute telephone interview. To acknowledge your time commitment, we will reimburse you in accordance with the Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) item for a standard GP consultation of more than 20 minutes but less than 40 minutes (**MBS item 36 = \$71.70**). Interviews will be audio-recorded and transcribed for analysis.

In the interview, you will be asked questions about any experiences you may have had of problematic use of opioids by people with cancer and pain, as well as barriers/facilitators to sharing care of patients taking opioids for cancer pain with doctors from other specialties. If you are familiar with the [National Approach to Prescription Drug Misuse](#), we will also be interested in your opinion on how this might impact opioid therapy for cancer pain.

You will be free to choose not to answer any of the questions without giving a reason why.

**Who is doing the research?**

This research is being carried out by a multidisciplinary team that includes social/behavioural scientists, a psychologist with a special interest in pain, a palliative care physician, a medical oncologist and clinical pharmacologist, a GP, a health services researcher in primary care/integration of care, and a pharmacist. The research is being run in conjunction with a similar US project at Stanford University to share learnings across different health systems.

**More information**

For more information, please contact Dr Tim Lockett via [tim.lockett@uts.edu.au](mailto:tim.lockett@uts.edu.au) or 02 9514 4861 at [IMPACCT UTS](#)