

PLAIN LANGUAGE STATEMENT



TO: Participant

Plain Language Statement

Date: 11th December 2017

Full Project Title: Factors influencing best practice approaches to facilitate student learning in the clinical setting

Principal Researcher: Associate Professor Lauren McTier

Associate Researcher(s): Professor Nicole Phillips, Associate Professor Helen Forbes & Alfred Deakin Professor Maxine Duke

This Plain Language Statement is 3 pages long. Please make sure you have all the pages.

As part of an Expert Panel, you are invited to take part in the research project titled: Factors influencing best practice approaches to facilitate student learning in the clinical setting. This project seeks your opinion on what factors are important in facilitating student learning in the clinical setting.

The Plain Language Statement contains detailed information about the research project. Its purpose is to explain to you as openly and as clearly as possible all the procedures involved in this project so that you can make a fully informed decision as to whether you are going to participate.

Please read the Plain Language Statement carefully. Once you understand what the project is about and if you agree to take part please complete the surveys which will constitute implied consent.

This is your copy of the Plain Language Statement to keep as a record.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this research is to identify factors that influence best practice approaches to facilitation of student learning in the clinical setting. Understanding these factors will inform future preparation programs for nursing students and clinical facilitators thus improving the quality of student learning in the clinical setting.

2. Methods and Research Participation

The design will be a descriptive consensus study utilising the Delphi method. This process, known as the Delphi method, is anticipated to consist of a maximum of 3 online surveys. The first survey aims to seek your opinion on this particular issue and contains content regarding a preliminary list of factors influencing the facilitation of student learning within the clinical environment that have been identified from an extensive literature search. The survey contains simple demographic data and a Likert scale and you will also have the opportunity to write short answers to further clarify your responses. Anonymity is provided to you and to all participants who are not aware of the identity of other experts participating in the consensus study. The second-round online survey is then distributed to each participant along with the feedback report containing the overall group response. The reason for sharing the report is it gives the opportunity for all experts to reconsider their initial responses in light of the overall results of the first survey. Subsequently, the last survey is run in order to reach an agreement among participants. The concluding phase will consist of the development of a final summary and feedback report to participants. Thus, you will be asked to complete the online survey on a maximum of 3

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occasions. Each online survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete and draws on your clinical nurse education expertise. One of the major advantages of the proposed method is that you do not have to physically meet with the other experts.

3. The risks and potential benefits to participants

We do not foresee any potential harm or discomfort from your participation. There are no expected benefits of this research for you in the short term other than knowing you have contributed to the development of a tool for facilitating student learning in the clinical setting.

4. The expected benefits to the wider community

The research is likely to benefit the community and the project is clearly justified. The findings will assist in identifying areas for clinical practice improvement to support not only nursing students but all learning in the clinical environment.

5. How privacy and confidentiality will be protected

Confidentiality will be assured during all phases of the project. That is, none of your statements will be attributed to you by name or to your place of employment. The email address you will need to provide for subsequent surveys to be distributed will not form any part of the data analysis and your confidentiality will be ensured at all times. Survey responses and email addresses will not be linked. Your email addresses will be separated from data immediately and stored separately. In any publication, information will be provided in aggregated form. The de-identified data will be saved onto a password protected Deakin computer and stored in password protected files onto a hard drive only accessible by the Chief Investigator, principal researchers and/or research assistant to ensure the security of the information/data. Data will be stored for 5 years after final publication and then destroyed through deletion of computer files.

6. Dissemination of the research results

A report will be prepared for dissemination within the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Deakin University. The findings will also be presented at relevant conferences and disseminated by publication in peer review journals. All participants will be provided with a summary of the final results via email if requested.

7. The sharing of data

There will be no sharing of data with other researchers from Deakin University or from other institutions.

8. How the research be monitored

The research team will schedule regular meetings during the planning, implementation of data collection, analysis and reporting phases of the project. The research assistant appointed to administer the consensus study will be working in close collaboration with the investigators.

9. Any payments to participants

Participants will not receive any financial or voucher reimbursements for their participation.

10. The amounts and sources of funding for the research

This research is funded by the Centre for Quality and Patient Safety Research, Deakin University with a grant of \$30,000.

11. Financial or other relevant declarations of interests of researchers, sponsors and institutions

The funding provider has no financial interests in the outcome of the research. Similarly, researchers do not have any financial interest in the outcome of this research or any other general competing interests.

12. Participation and withdrawal

Participation in this research project is voluntary. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the project at any stage. However, because it is difficult to identify individual participants, any information that has already been obtained cannot be removed from the study. If you decide to withdraw from this project, please notify a member of the research team. Your decision whether to take part or not to take part, or to take part and then withdraw, will not affect your relationship with Deakin University or any members of the research team. If you prefer, before you make your decision, a member of the research team will be available to answer any questions you have about the research project.

13. Contact details of the researchers

If you require further information or if you have any queries concerning this project, you can contact the following researchers responsible for this project.

Associate Professor Lauren McTier
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14. Ethical guidelines

This project will be carried out according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) produced by the National Health and Medical Research Council of Australia. This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. The ethics aspects of this research project have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee of Deakin University.

15. 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 Manager
Integrity, Ethics and Biosafety
Deakin University
221 Burwood Highway
Burwood Victoria 3125
Telephone: 03 9251 7129
Email: research-ethics@deakin.edu.au
Please quote project number [171_2017].