



INFORMATION SHEET

Collaborative Australian Physiotherapy Research Initiative (CAPRI) Project. (UTS APPROVAL NUMBER ETH19-3327)

WHO IS DOING THE PROJECT?

A team of researchers led by Professor Arianne Verhagen (Discipline of Physiotherapy, Graduate School of Health) and Professor Jon Adams (Faculty of Health) University of Technology Sydney (UTS) have established the Collaborative Australian Physiotherapy Research Initiative (CAPRI) Project. The CAPRI project team is a dynamic team of researchers conducting rigorous, scientific investigation into physiotherapy care in Australia.

WHAT IS THIS PROJECT ABOUT?

The CAPRI project will establish a national physiotherapy database to facilitate evidence-based, research capacity building for the physiotherapy profession in Australia. The aim of the CAPRI project is to enable, facilitate and coordinate high quality practice based, patient relevant/centred physiotherapy research, with effective engagement of the physiotherapists. The database will be used to examine a range of clinical and practice issues including health outcomes and to describe current physiotherapy practice in Australia.

The CAPRI project includes two phases:

Phase 1: Online survey ([Capri Baseline Database Questionnaire](#)) and the establishment of the national physiotherapy database.

Phase 2: Further sub-studies, initiated by researchers and/or clinicians, that will examine specific clinical and practice issues identified from the survey findings or else.

HOW WILL THE CAPRI PROJECT FINDINGS BENEFIT PHYSIOTHERAPISTS AND THE PHYSIOTHERAPY PROFESSION?

In order for the physiotherapy profession to further advance in Australia, it is essential that broad evidence-based information around clinical and practice-based issues are collected. In addition, it provides physiotherapists the opportunity to capacity build and engage with research. The CAPRI project has been established to directly address these needs through facilitating a broad evidence-based and research capacity building by producing the first national physiotherapy database. The CAPRI project is the first *national-scale* practice-based physiotherapy project worldwide and will provide a sustainable resource for further physiotherapy research development and engagement to inform and improve patient care across Australia.

HOW WILL I BE INFORMED ABOUT THE CAPRI PROJECT NEWS/FINDINGS?

The CAPRI project gained official approval to network through the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA). APA members will be regularly updated with news and findings from the CAPRI project via regional and national APA newsletters. We will also inform APA members of peer-reviewed journal articles resulting from the CAPRI project as they become available.

We also developed a website for the CAPRI project (www.capri-au.com). All interested professionals (clinicians/researchers/students/academics) would be able to sign up to the

website for regular feeds/announcements. Also through the imbedded news section on the website, CAPRI aims to engage audiences with updated information. All related information regarding the availability of upcoming funding, and calls for expression of interest from any interested researchers who wish to recruit via the CAPRI physiotherapy database will be made available through this website.

IF I SAY YES, WHAT WILL IT INVOLVE?

Should you agree to take part in this project, you will be asked to complete an online questionnaire ([Capri Baseline Database Questionnaire](#)). This survey should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. Submitting the completed online questionnaire implies consent for participating in the project. Your response to the questions will be kept anonymous.

At the end of the survey we will ask if you will participate in phase 2 of the CAPRI research project. If you agree (selecting the “I agree” box on completion of the above mentioned survey) and are randomly selected, we will send you further information in coming months. You will then be able to consider whether you would like to be contacted for further participation in the additional sub-studies of this research project.

Please note: the CAPRI project is not a practice audit and the information collected will only be available to the CAPRI researchers at UTS and will be de-identified for research purposes. To maintain anonymity, the data collected will be securely stored in such a way that only those mentioned in the CAPRI research team will be able to gain access to it. We are not collecting any personal information on you [such as address, phone number and e-mail address etc.], thus chances of revealing your identity for the current and future projects are very low.

ARE THERE ANY RISKS/INCONVENIENCE?

While we do not anticipate any problems, but in the event that the line of questioning develops in such a way that you feel hesitant or uncomfortable, you may contact the Research Ethics Officer on 02 9514 9772, who will provide a contact for the university counselling service. You may also decline to answer any particular question(s) and/or may withdraw from the project without any disadvantage of any kind.

WHY HAVE I BEEN ASKED?

You have been chosen as a Australian Physiotherapist. You are able to provide the information we need to establish the CAPRI project physiotherapy database and to address the research questions around clinical and practice issues we aim to address.

DO I HAVE TO SAY YES?

No, you do not have to say yes.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I SAY NO?

Nothing. We will thank you for your time and will not contact you further about this research. Declining to participate in this project at any stage will not affect your relationship with UTS in any way.

IF I SAY YES, CAN I CHANGE MY MIND LATER?

Yes. You may withdraw from participation in the project at any time and without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind. Changing your mind at any time will not affect your

relationship with UTS in any way. We will thank you for your time and will not contact you about this research again.

WHAT IF I HAVE CONCERNS OR A COMPLAINT?

If you have concerns about the research, please feel free to contact us by email at arianne.verhagen@uts.edu.au or by phone 02 9514 7368.

If you would like to talk to someone who is not connected with the research study, you may contact the Research Ethics Officer on 02 9514 9772, and quote this number ETH19-3327.