



Explanatory Statement

Project ID: 48112

Title of Project: Defining the Role of Digital Health In Modern Australian Paramedic Practice: A Landscape Analysis

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Invitation

We invite you to take part in a research study about how paramedics use and understand digital health tools. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether to take part. If you want learn more about this project, please contact us at the phone numbers or email addresses listed above. You are invited to take part. Participation is entirely voluntary. This form explains the study's purpose, procedures, risks, benefits and your rights as a participant. Please read it carefully and feel free to ask any questions.

This study is part of the honours research project of Abbey Chern.

Purpose of the Study

This study aims to explore paramedics' experiences with digital health, such as video consultations, wearable devices and online training. The aim of this research is to identify barriers, facilitators and areas for digital health development within paramedic practice.

Eligibility

To be eligible to participate you need to be an AHPRA registered paramedic working in Australia. Exclusions include AHPRA registered paramedics working outside of Australia.

Why you were invited for this research

You are invited because you are an AHPRA registered paramedic working in Australia. Your insights and experiences are vital in understanding how digital health is described and utilised in contemporary paramedic practice.

What Participation Involves

Participation in this study involves participating in an online focus-group discussion via Zoom, lasting 60–90 minutes. Participants will be asked questions about their experiences, opinions and suggestions regarding digital health in paramedicine. Participants will be asked to provide some background demographic information and complete a consent form prior to commencing the focus group. All zoom focus groups will be recorded and transcribed. Transcriptions of the focus groups will be anonymised.

Source of funding

In collaboration with the Australian Digital Health Agency, the Australasian College of Paramedicine is working to understand how the paramedicine profession currently uses digital health, and what opportunities there are to improve usage for the purpose of improving health outcomes for all



Australians. Dr Cameron Gosling has been engaged by ACP and supported via funding to complete this study.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Participants who agree to participate in this study will be sent a consent form which is signed and returned prior to arranging their focus group time. Participants will be able to withdraw from the study at anytime up until their data is anonymised in the data transcripts. Due to the nature of the zoom recordings participants can not withdraw their data from the video recording, however they can leave the group early, without penalty for any reason.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

Possible benefits include having the opportunity to potentially influence future training, policies and tools for paramedics in digital health and to share insights that may help improve digital health practices and patient care across Australia.

Potential risks include feeling minor stress when discussing challenging experiences in practice and a very small risk of breach of confidentiality if data-storage systems fail.

Payment for Participation

To acknowledge the time and professional insight you contribute, you will receive a \$50 AUD electronic gift card after the focus-group session. This payment is a modest reimbursement for any incidental costs (such as data usage, schedule disruption, or childcare). You will receive the full amount after the completion of the focus group, regardless of the amount of time you contributed or the amount of information you provide.

Confidentiality

Your data will be kept confidential in password protected files on secure Monash University servers. All transcript data will be de-identified, and only the research team will have access to this data. The focus group includes discussions about digital health in paramedic practice and may cover patient or organisational relevant information. We remind everyone that they must keep what they hear in this focus group confidential and not share it with others. All reports and publications will report pooled data or anonymous information.

Storage of data

The data will be password protected and stored for at least 5 years on secure Monash University servers accessible only to current and future members of the research team. Data (both hard copies or electronic) will be destroyed when it is no longer required, or after 5 years.

Results

Results will be made available via the ACP in the form of a written report. If you would like a digital copy of the report once it has been published, please contact the chief investigator.

Data will also be presented in the form of research articles, where applicable and a student thesis.

Complaints



Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Executive Officer, Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC):

Executive Officer
Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC)
Office of Research Ethics and Integrity
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