



Participant Information Statement

Title: Paramedic Interpretation of Lung Sonography of Patients with COVID-19 - a feasibility project

Short Title: PILSNER

Project Number: 207111

Project Sponsor: University of South Australia

Chief Investigator: Mr Tom Gleeson-Hammerton

Supervisor: A/Prof Micah Peters

Associated Investigators: Prof Marion Eckert; Prof Adrian Esterman & Mr James Pearce

Introduction – What does my participation involve?

You are invited to take part in this research project, which is called 'PILSNER: Paramedic Interpretation of Lung Sonography of Patients with COVID-19.' You have been invited because you are a practicing paramedic with previous ultrasound training.

This Participant Information Statement tells you about the research project. It explains the processes involved with taking part. Knowing what is involved will help you decide if you want to take part in the research.

Please read this information carefully. Ask questions about anything that you don't understand or want to know more about. Before deciding whether or not to take part, you might want to talk about it with a relative, friend or a colleague.

Participation in this research is voluntary. If you don't wish to take part, you do not have to.

If you decide you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked to confirm your consent. By doing so, you are telling us that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the research project
- Consent to the use of your information as described.

What is the purpose of this research?

This research project is assessing the feasibility of paramedic-performed lung ultrasound (point-of-care ultrasound, POCUS) as an assessment tool for patients with COVID-19 in the out-of-hospital setting. It aims to see if paramedics with prior training in POCUS can accurately interpret ultrasound images of the lungs of patients with COVID-19.

What does participation in this research involve?

Participating in this project will involve answering some short questions about your:

- Eligibility to take part
- Current role in paramedicine
- Prior POCUS training
- Frequency and confidence in using POCUS, as well as the types of scans you perform

You will then be asked to interpret 10 lung ultrasound images/clips by selecting an answer from multiple options (like a multiple-choice quiz). There is no time limit to complete the assessment, however you will not be able to leave or return the survey without losing your progress. It is anticipated that it may take up to 1 hour to complete this survey, depending on how long you wish to review images.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

By participating, you can choose to be entered into a prize draw to win an A\$100 Amazon voucher. There are no other personal benefits to participants. Your participation could help future research and clinical development.

What are the possible risks and disadvantages of taking part?

This is an internet-based survey. Every effort will be made to ensure that responses are confidential, however the researcher cannot guarantee the confidentiality or anonymity of material transferred by email or the internet. There are no other anticipated risks or disadvantages.

Do I have to take part in this research project?

No. Participation in this project is voluntary and you may withdraw at any time whilst undertaking the survey. However, once you have submitted your survey response, you cannot withdraw as survey responses and identifying participant information are stored separately and are therefore not able to be linked. If you do withdraw while undertaking

the survey, you may return at another time and complete the survey if you choose (and assuming the target number of responses has not been achieved).

What will happen to information about me?

The survey does not ask for any sensitive personal information. All information, answers to questions and image interpretations are anonymous. The information provided will be compiled with other participants, with the results compared to an expert interpretation of images. These results will be discussed and published in a journal article. No individual participant's results (aside from the expert interpretation) will be published or shared. No information which could lead to identification of any individual will be released (other than in the unlikely event that this is required by law).

You may request to be provided with a copy of the final report/journal article by emailing the Principal Investigator (contact details at the end of this PIS). Personal information you provide for this purpose will be securely stored separately from survey responses, and will be confidentially deleted once they are no longer required.

What if something goes wrong?

There are no anticipated risks to participants.

What happens when the research project ends?

The research project will end when all results are published, however your participation will be limited to the time it takes to complete the online survey/assessment. All information gathered by this research project will be stored securely on the University of South Australia's IT systems for 5-years following publication, then confidentially destroyed. Non-identifiable (anonymous) data will also be made available for reuse by other researchers through the University of South Australia Data Access Portal

Who is organising and funding the research?

This study is part of a project for a higher degree by research candidate. There is no direct funding for this project.

Who has reviewed the research project?

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of the University of South Australia as required by the Australian government research requirements, specified in the National Statement

on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023).

This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

Further information and who to contact

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query. If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact the researcher on the details below:

Research contact person

Name: Tom Gleeson-Hammerton

Position: Principal Investigator (HDR Candidate)

Email: thomas.gleeson-hammerton@mymail.unisa.edu.au

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, please contact:

Reviewing HREC name University of South Australia Human Research Ethics Committee

HREC Executive Officer Human Ethics Officer

Telephone +618 8302 6330

Email humanethics@unisa.edu.au