INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Antidepressant use during pregnancy: Are primary healthcare providers all on the same page?

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully and take time to consider before deciding whether to participate. If you decide to participate, we thank you. If you decide not to take part, there will be no disadvantage to you, and we thank you for considering our request. This study is being carried out by researchers at the School of Pharmacy, University of Otago. This project is being undertaken by Lucy Broughton as part of her PhD thesis.

What is the aim of this project?

Approximately 12% of pregnant women/people experience clinically significant symptoms of depression during their pregnancy. The decision of whether to use antidepressants during pregnancy requires careful consideration of the risks of untreated depression against the risks of foetal exposure to medication. The objective of this survey is to explore primary health care provider knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding the pharmacological management of perinatal depression.

Who is funding this project?

This study is funded by a University of Otago doctoral scholarship.

Who are we seeking to participate in the project?

We would like to survey NZ registered midwives and general practitioners who may be involved in the care of pregnant women/people with depressive disorders.

If you participate, what will you be asked to do?

Should you choose to participate in this study you will be asked to complete an online survey by clicking on the link provided in the email invitation. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Please be aware that you may decide not to take part in the project without any disadvantage to yourself.

As a thank you for participating, you will receive an invitation at the end of the survey to enter a draw to win one of four $50 gift vouchers.

Is there any risk of discomfort or harm from participation?

Perinatal depression, and the question of whether to use medication during pregnancy may be a sensitive topic. All responses will be anonymous (see anonymity and confidentiality below), therefore there is no risk of any professional repercussions resulting from your survey answers.

In the event that a survey question makes you feel hesitant or uncomfortable you are reminded of your right to decline to answer any particular question(s) and withdraw from the survey at any stage.

What data or information will be collected, and how will it be used?

The survey will include questions about your existing knowledge on the risks and benefits of antidepressants in pregnancy, your concerns and current practices around perinatal depression and the use of antidepressants during pregnancy, information sources you use, and some basic demographic questions.

The results of the project may be published in a peer-reviewed journal and/or presented at a conference. You are most welcome to request a copy of the results of the project should you wish. Please contact one of the research team (details below) if you would like to receive a summary of the results.

What about anonymity and confidentiality?

We will ask questions about your gender, ethnicity, years of practice in your current profession, and region of your practice or pharmacy, but we will not be collecting any identifiable information such as your name, practice, address, phone number, or email address. Additionally, your IP address and location data will also **not** be collected.

The information provided in the survey will be kept on a password protected computer file within the university only accessible by the research team. As required by the University's research policy, any raw data on which the results of the project depend will be retained in secure storage for ten years, after which it will be destroyed. The data from this project will be publicly archived so that it may be used by other researchers.

Any questions?

If you have any questions now or in the future, please feel free to contact either:

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Name: Associate professor Alesha Smith **Position: Co-investigator** **Department: School of Pharmacy**	Contact email: Alesha.smith@otago.ac.nz
Name: Professor Natalie Hughes **Position: Principal investigator** **Department: School of Pharmacy**	Contact email: Natalie.hughes@otago.ac.nz

This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee (Health). If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (phone +64 3 479 8256 or email gary.witte@otago.ac.nz). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.