MONASH University

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

GP Supervisor Participant

Project ID: 26806

Project title: Supervisor and training Practice Audit, Development and Evaluation (SPADE)

Chief Investigator:

Dr Gerard Ingham, Department of Rural Health.

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Associate Researchers:

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You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact either Gerard Ingham or Tim Clement via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

Why were you chosen for this research?

You have been chosen for this research as you are a either the Primary GP supervisor in an accredited MCCC GP Training general practice training post with oversight of the broader supervisory team or a GP supervisor within the team.

Focus and research methods

The study will investigate a new approach to professional development for GP supervisors and training practices, which aims to try and improve the supervisory and learning environment within training practices. Rather than GP supervisors attending an external event organised by MCCC GP Training, MCCC Medical Educators and the research team will visit four training practices to work with the Primary GP Supervisors and interested members of the practice teams to tackle self-identified quality improvement issues. The quality improvement approach is not about 'finding fault' but will focus on how current practice can be improved. Action research methodology will be used to investigate whether this is an effective and feasible approach to providing professional development to GP Supervisors and the supervisory team.

What does the research involve for you?

Participating in the research meets the practice's MCCC-mandated requirement to participate in a 'core educational activity' for 2021. Your time commitment should not exceed the time that you would typically spend at a one-day workshop (i.e., seven hours). You will be the key point of contact between the training practice and the research team. After completing an initial reflective audit on supervision, teaching, and the learning environment within your practice, you will participate in an initial scoping meeting with the research team to identify 'supervisory' quality improvement issues. Where other members of the training practice team and GP registrars are required for the identified quality improvement activity you will invite them to participate. You will work with the training practice team in leading the investigation of the identified quality improvement issue, meeting with the research team as necessary. You will work with practice participants to collect and review data relevant for the quality improvement

issue with the research team. At the completion of the intervention, you will participate in a 20 to 30-minute follow-up telephone interview about your experience of the quality improvement intervention.

The meetings with the research team, practice team and GP registrar, and the post intervention telephone interview will be audio recorded. The research team will make field notes of all observed meetings.

Payment

You will be paid at the same hourly rate that you would normally receive for attending an MCCC-organised professional development activity; $120 per hour. This includes participation in meetings with the research team, any related work conducted between meetings, and the post-intervention interview, up to a maximum of seven hours.

Source of funding

The project is funded by a competitive Commonwealth Government Education Research Grant awarded by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Being a participant in this study is voluntary and you are under no obligation to consent to participate. We wish to make it clear that should you decline to participate or withdraw at a later stage that it will not impact on your relationship with MCCC.

The consent process initially involves signing and returning the related consent form. You will have other formal opportunities to re-affirm your consent, specifically at the start of scheduled meetings with the research team.

You have the right to withdraw from active participation in the project at any stage, without any implications. You can further demand that data arising from your participation are not used or you can withdraw and agree that data already collected can be used.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

We hope that the opportunity to reflect on and talk about your role as a GP supervisor and work on a related quality improvement project, may produce personal gains in knowledge, insights into, and understanding of supervisory practice. In addition to these personal benefits, participation in this project may results in benefits to current and future registrars and the broader supervisory team.

As highlighted above, participating in the research meets MCCC's professional development requirements for the year.

We hope that the research will produce wider benefits. MCCC is interested in how we can deliver more effective professional development for GP supervisors. Our findings are likely to be of interest to all the Regional Training Organisations contracted to deliver the AGPT program.

We think that any risks to you as a GP supervisor are low, although subjecting one's practice to scrutiny may cause some discomfort. As previously stated, our approach is not about 'finding fault' but will focus on improving current practice.

Any adverse implications from participation in the study are considered highly unlikely. If a clinical or supervision practice was revealed that gave participants or researchers a reasonable belief that the public was at risk because of a significant departure from accepted professional standards, this would need to be reported to the MCCC Director of Education and Training and AHPRA. Although this risk is considered highly unlikely it would have significant consequences for the participant, including removal from the AGPT Program and the loss of professional registration.

Services on offer if adversely affected

In the event of you being adversely affected by the research, support would be available through MCCC's Supervisor Liaison Officer, who independent of the research team.

Anonymity, confidentiality, privacy, and publishing findings

The meetings with the research team and the post-intervention interviews will be audio-recorded. The post-intervention interview will be transcribed. The audio-recordings will be used by the research team as part of the action research cycles, to reflect on the intervention process. This 'raw data' will only be seen by the named

members of the research team and the co-opted MCCC Medical Educator who will join the research team at your practice.

In order to give participants some degree of anonymity, all data will be de-identified by giving participants' codes or pseudonyms and changing placenames. These pseudonyms will be used in any reports or publications. It is considered unlikely that you or the training practice will be identifiable from participation in the research.

Transcription of interviews will be conducted by a professional Australia-based transcription service, with audio files and transcriptions exchanged via a secure server.

The research is not focused on gathering 'sensitive information' (i.e. intrusion into private matters) but we do want to make participants' views about this intervention public. That is, you are not sharing your views of the project 'in confidence', i.e., as a secret. It is our intention to write articles about the project for publication in academic journals and give presentations at conferences. This type of research cannot guarantee anonymity, but we expect that individual participants should not be identifiable in any of our research outputs.

Storage of data

Audio-recordings and transcriptions will be purged from the Australian-based transcription service server at the contract end.

Electronic data files will be password-protected and stored on an MCCC secure server that is only available to research team members. Data will be retained for a minimum of five years and destroyed according to Monash University guidelines when no longer required.

Hard copies of documents will be kept in a lockable filing cabinet.

Outcomes

The outcomes from the research are expected to be available by 1st July 2022. The outcomes of the project are likely to be published in the following 6–12 months and/or presented at Medical Education conferences. Details will also be available via the RACGP website under Education Research Grants or by contacting the Chief Investigator. If requested, we will send participants publications arising from the project.

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). Please quote project number 26806.

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Thank you.

Dr Gerard Ingham, Chief Investigator