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The effect of targeted social information resources on older patient attitudes towards GP registrars

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The effect of targeted social information resources on older patient attitudes towards GP registrars

Abstract

Recent research has shown a significant reluctance by older patients to see a GP registrar for chronic problems. A key factor in this is older patients' knowledge about GP registrars; their qualifications and what their role is in general practice. This study used targeted information resources about GP registrars to assess older patient attitudes and behaviours regarding GP registrars.

Keywords

attitudes, towards, gp, registrars, effect, social, targeted, information, resources, older, patient

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About ISPRN

The Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network (ISPRN) is a partnership between the University of Wollongong's Graduate School of Medicine (GSM) and the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute (IHMRI).

ISPRN supports individual investigator projects and provides a framework for other researchers to partner with GP practices in research.

About IHMRI

IHMRI is an independent health and medical research institute based on the University of Wollongong campus.

IHMRI's vision — *excellence and innovation in health and medical research supporting better health services leading to a healthier Illawarra community* — encapsulates our belief that by linking academic and clinician researchers around common health and medical issues, research findings can be rapidly translated into improved clinical practice in the Illawarra region and beyond.



This study was conducted by the Illawarra and Southern Practice Research Network (ISPRN) which is co-funded by the University of Wollongong's Graduate School of Medicine and the Illawarra Health and Medical Research Institute.

Project Funding

This specific project was funded by Coast City Country General Practice Training (CCCCPT).

Key researchers

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Any questions?

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IHMRI is a joint initiative of the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and the University of Wollongong



Study results

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targeted social
information
resources on older
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towards GP registrars





Facts about GP Registrars

- A GP Registrar is a qualified doctor.
- A GP Registrar has a medical degree and has completed at least two years training at a public hospital.
- Registrars work under the supervision of experienced GPs in your practice.
- You are always welcome to talk to the registrar and double check your management with your regular GP.

Recent research has shown a significant reluctance by older patients to see a GP registrar for chronic problems. A key factor in this is older patients' knowledge about GP registrars; their qualifications and what their role is in general practice.

This study used targeted information resources about GP registrars to assess older patient attitudes and behaviours regarding GP registrars.

Ten general practices displayed brochures and posters about GP registrars for a period of six months. For comparison, nine general practices did not display any resources during this time.

Patients over the age of 65 who had a stable chronic condition and had attended their practice in November or December 2014 were sent two surveys, one at the beginning of the study and one six months later. This survey was used as a tool to assess how effective the marketing materials were in improving older patients' understanding of the role of GP registrars.

Surveys were completed by 547 participants at the beginning of the study.

Surveys were completed by 286 participants at the end of the study.

More than 41 per cent of all participants had been seeing their current GP for more than 10 years.

Results

Patients who were exposed to the Information resources:

- demonstrated a significant improvement in trust in GP registrars.
- were more comfortable than patients who weren't exposed to the materials in having a GP registrar treat them for a complex or chronic condition.
- demonstrated a significant increase in visits to the GP registrar for minor and more complex medical conditions.



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