INFORMATION SHEET

Paediatricians’ Experience and knowledge of oral health care in children with special needs

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We wish to invite you to participate in a research study conducted by the dental department at the Children’s Hospital at Westmead.

Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate in this study, it is important that you understand why this research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and contact us if you have any enquiries or require further information.

What is the study about?

Oral health is integral to one’s general health and wellbeing. A good oral health foundation in childhood is the key determinant of oral health throughout life. Improvements in child oral health should be a priority as it has the potential to reduce the overall burden of disease in society in future. Children with special needs are a group of individuals who often experience poorer health outcomes due to challenges with maintaining their own oral health and difficulties in accessing health care, resulting in this subpopulation of children having more unmet treatment needs. Paediatricians are often the first health professional that these patients encounter and can play a vital role in oral health promotion and education, and recognition of oral disease.

The aims of this study are to determine the knowledge and experience of paediatricians in the assessment and management of oral disease and oral health related practices in children with special needs. We aim to identify where gaps in knowledge exist and to develop strategies that can be targeted at addressing these amongst medical professionals.

The study will involve completion of an anonymous purpose designed online survey that will be sent to paediatricians across NSW. The data collected will then be analysed and the results used to establish educational tools for paediatricians related to oral health practices.

Who can participate in the study?

We are asking all paediatricians in NSW to participate in this study, however participation is voluntary.

As the surveys will be returned to us anonymously, if you choose to withdraw at a later stage, this will not be possible.
What will the study involve?

This study involves completion of an anonymous, online questionnaire that will ask questions about the clinician’s demographics, experience, and level of knowledge in the assessment and management of dental diseases in children with special needs. We estimate that this survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. Your consent to participate is implied by completion of the survey.

If you would like to participate, we would ask that you complete the surveys by the 30th June 2017, however we will send a friendly reminder 4 weeks after you receive this letter and Information Sheet.

All data collected will be securely stored in locked cabinets in the dental department for a period of five (5) years after completion of the study, at which time all information will be securely destroyed. Only the researchers will have access to the data. Information collected will be analysed and results may be published in peer-reviewed journals or presented at professional conferences but will not include any personal information identifying you or any other participants.

Are there any benefits to participating in the study?

While you may not directly benefit from taking part in this study, we hope that the results obtained will provide us with the necessary information to improve clinician’s knowledge of oral health practices and promotion strategies.

Are there any side effects and risk associated with this study?

There are no known associated risk or side effects with this study.

Other information

Any information gathered as a result of this study and choice to participate will be kept in strictest confidence, being disclosed only with your permission or except as required by law.

If you have any questions about the conduct of this study, please do not hesitate to discuss them with Dr Diane Tay at (02) 9845 2582.

This project has been approved by Sydney Children’s Hospitals Network Human Research Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about the conduct of this study, please do not hesitate to contact the Executive Officer of the Ethics Committee (02 9845 3066) and quote approval number LNR/15/SCHN/403

This Information Sheet is for you to keep. Thank you for your consideration to participate.