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# Improving Quality of Care Through Detection of Complexity Amongst Older People in a Community Setting: Pilot Randomised Controlled Trial Protocol.

**Participant Information Sheet**

Community patients are becoming increasingly complex. This is increasing the requirements of care and support to remain in their homes for longer. Currently complexity is detected using clinical judgment. There is no consistent method that is objective and links to time and resources allocated to patients.

The aim of this quality improvement activity is to explore the impact of the Patient Complexity Instrument (PCI) to detect patient complexity and the subsequent resource and time allocation for community dwelling patients aged 65 and over. It is anticipated that using the PCI will enhance the detection of patient complexity and appropriate resource and time allocation.

All nursing staff are invited to participate in this pilot. Participation involves completion of a pre-pilot survey, a survey regarding complexity of patients and referrals completed on admission and a post-pilot survey. Staff admitting a client in the intervention group will also complete the PCI. Staff will be allocated a code using a sealed envelope system provided by an independent person. The envelope will be provided to the staff member; the included code is to be used when completing pilot documents. A list linking the nurses name only and code will be kept separately from data collection documents to protect nurse’s identity. This list will only be accessed if a staff member needs to retrieve their ID code.

Aggregated data may be used in a publication or conference presentation. When the survey analysis is complete, a summary will be provided to all staff.

Completion of these surveys will take no more than 15 minutes of your time. Your participation is completely voluntary and any identifying information will be removed by an independent person prior to data analysis.

If, in the unlikely event that it may be possible for you to be identified because you belong to a small subgroup your data will be grouped with others to make the subgroup larger to avoid individuals being identified.

This survey has been approved by Community Services Quality Review Meeting and the Bendigo Health’s Human Research Ethics Committee.

Your consent to participate in this project is requested.  Should you decline, your relationship with other staff and the organisation will not be impacted. Should you wish withdraw at any point any data already collected will be retained as we will be unable to identify this data as yours.

Jenny Boak is conducting this project as part of a Master of Applied Science.

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agree to participate in the ImPaCt project. I understand the project and the documentation requirements as outlined above.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to discuss this survey, please email Jennifer Boak at jboak@bendigohealth.org.au. If you have any concerns of an ethical nature in relation to this survey please contact Sally McCarthy, Research Manager at Bendigo Health on 5454 6412 or samcarthy@bendigohealth.org.au.