

GP SHAReD TRIAL Information Sheet

Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) Mental Health Services was awarded a Translational Research Grant from NSW Health to trial an electronic shared-care tool and telehealth. Currently, letters, faxes and phone calls are used to communicate between GP, mental health service and patients.

The SHAReD (Shared Health Arrangements Research and Development) trial aims not only to improve consumer engagement in primary care, but to identify more effective and time efficient shared care processes for primary care and mental health clinicians dealing with multiple competing demands

This trial is important because consumers of mental health services often have poorer physical health than the rest of the population. For this reason, we want to find a way to improve the way services work together to ensure your patients receive the best possible preventive health care.

Why am I contacted?

You have a patient who is in mental health shared care, and your patient has consented. To fully enrol the patient, the patient's shared care GP also needs to be enrolled in the program.

What's involved?

Clinical tool (now if in intervention group and in 12 months if in comparison group): This online shared care tool which has been pilot tested and currently in use in cancer shared care will be installed to your patient management system with your consent. The installation of the software will be done by a highly experienced health software company called Precedence. The installation takes less than 30 minutes and we will provide you a training on how to access and edit the mental health online shared care plan.

After 12 months, we would like to extract data from your medical record on those patients who have agreed to be part of the study and the data will be linked to patient survey and MBS/PBS and hospital data. All data will be kept secure in a password-protected file, only accessible by the researchers.

In addition, we will ask you to participate in a quick survey about your shared care experience soon after you are enrolled in the study and another interview 12 months after the first interview.

We're all conscious of the multiple demands and high pressures on primary care and mental health clinicians but we believe if successful this online software would **improve communication** between GP and mental health services and **preventive health care** for mental health clients. It would further **save your time** and mental health services and clients

If you have any questions about the study, please contact Research Manager, Stella Jun (stella.jun@health.nsw.gov.au or 0460 014 502) or Living Well, Living Longer Program Manager Andy Simpson (andrew.simpson1@health.nsw.gov.au or 0455 072 020) or Senior Research Fellow, Catherine Spooner (c.spooner@unsw.edu.au).