



Diagnosis and management of shoulder pain by NZ physiotherapists: a national survey

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Thank you for showing an interest in this project. Please read this information sheet carefully before deciding whether or not to participate. If you decide to participate we thank you. If you decide not to take part there will be no disadvantage to you and we thank you for considering our request.

What is the Aim of the Project?

The aim of this project is to identify how clinicians manage and assess patients with shoulder pain and how confident physiotherapists are when assessing these patients. This project is being undertaken as part of the requirements for Brooke's Craig Honours programme – School of Physiotherapy.

What Type of Participants are being sought?

We are seeking physiotherapists who treat patients with shoulder pain and hold a current annual practice certificate with the Physiotherapy Board New Zealand and practice in New Zealand.

The survey will be distributed electronically via email, social media, website links and other online platforms: via professional physiotherapy networks including Physiotherapy New Zealand branches, special interest groups and personal contacts of the research group.

We are aiming to secure a minimum of 311 responses.

We cannot offer any form of compensation to physiotherapists who decide to take part in the survey.

By completing this survey, you will help us to identify current management of patients with shoulder disorders in New Zealand, and how confident physiotherapists are when managing patients with shoulder disorders. This information can be used by our profession to inform future research and training in New Zealand.

What will Participants be Asked to Do?

Should you agree to take part in this project, you will be asked to:

- *Complete an online survey (approximately 10 min) with multiple choices and some short answers.*
- *The survey will gather information about:*
 - *Gender, training, practice and caseload characteristics and sources you use to keep up to date with current best practice.*
 - *How you would diagnose and treat 4 theoretical patients.*

Please be aware that you may decide not to take part in the project without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

What Data or Information will be Collected and What Use will be Made of it?

We will collect data about you and your clinical experience (i.e. gender, training, practice and caseload characteristics and sources you use to keep up to date with current best practice).

We will use group-level data for presenting overall findings.

*The data collected will be securely stored in such a way that only those mentioned below will be able to gain access to it. Data obtained as a result of the research will be retained for **at least 5 years** in secure storage. Any personal information held on the participants [such as contact details, audio or video tapes, after they have been transcribed etc,] may be destroyed at the completion of the research even though the data derived from the research will, in most cases, be kept for much longer or possibly indefinitely.*

The results of the project may be published and will be available in the University of Otago Library (Dunedin, New Zealand) but every attempt will be made to preserve your anonymity.

We will provide an electronic copy of the final report to all participants who you wish to receive this document, once the study is accepted for publication by a scientific journal.

Can Participants Change their Mind and Withdraw from the Project?

You may withdraw from participation in the project at any time before submitting your response online without any disadvantage to yourself of any kind.

What if Participants have any Questions?

If you have any questions about our project, either now or in the future, please feel free to contact either:-

Brooke Craig

and

Dan Ribeiro

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This study has been approved by the University of Otago Human Ethics Committee. If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Committee through the Human Ethics Committee Administrator (ph +643 479 8256 or email gary.witte@otago.ac.nz). Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated and you will be informed of the outcome.