

What is the PARTNER Network?

This general practice is taking part in a national research initiative called the PARTNER Network.

The PARTNER Network is a group of connected rural general practices across Australia. They have agreed to be involved in research development and training, and to share their de-identified data for research purposes. They will work with local university-based research hubs and a central national database.

Why does Australia need the PARTNER Network?

- Rural Australians will have better access to clinical trials research through their local general practices
- Rural health clinicians will be more involved in conducting research and developing research skills
- Researchers can more easily involve rural Australians in their research, and better consider their needs, which means better healthcare.

We provide the University of Melbourne with non-identifiable (sometimes called 'de-identified') information from patients' general practice records. By combining de-identified information (data) from thousands of patients, researchers can learn more about the safety of medicines, patterns of disease in the community, and how medicines are prescribed.

How can I get more information?

If you would like to know more about the PARTNER Network or the Patron database, or have any concerns or questions about the project and its associated research, you can speak to your doctor, the practice manager of the GP practice, or you can contact the PARTNER Network at the Department of General Practice at the University of Melbourne.

Information about the research projects using data from Patron shall be made available on the University website. Please see: <https://medicine.unimelb.edu.au/school-structure/general-practice/engagement/data-for-decisions>

Contact us

The PARTNER Network
Department of General Practice
780 Elizabeth Street
The University of Melbourne
Victoria, Australia 3010
03 8559 7176



INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

TO HELP IMPROVE HEALTH CARE IN AUSTRALIA,

THIS GENERAL PRACTICE IS PARTICIPATING IN THE RURAL AND REGIONAL PARTNER NETWORK FOR CLINICAL TRIALS.

For further information:
www.partnernetwork.com.au

Australian Teletrial Program
Access to clinical trials, closer to home



www.partnernetwork.com.au

What information is gathered?

The de-identified data that is gathered includes information about immunisations, medicines prescribed, illnesses, pathology and radiology results, measurements such as height, weight and blood pressure and lifestyle factors, such as tobacco smoking.

What are the benefits of the research program?

This initiative is helping researchers, medical educators, doctors and other decision-makers to respond to important health and health system questions. Sharing de-identified information helps health professionals and the wider community know more about the use of medications and the outcomes of disease or treatment. It will also help in the training of medical students.

Your privacy and data security

No researcher will have access to your name, address, initials or your full date of birth. None of your personal details or details identifying your GP are provided to researchers. The de-identified information is stored in a database within a secure server at the University of Melbourne (Patron). The information is not openly available nor stored in an offshore server.

Who will have access to the de-identified data?

Researchers involved in this research program may be from different kinds of organisations, for example universities, government bodies or commercial companies. No one can access the database without first meeting the University's strict rules around ethics, privacy and handling of the data.

Must my de-identified records be included?

Individual patients have the right not to take part. If you do not want your de-identified medical records to be used for this research program, let your doctor or the practice manager know. Or, you can withdraw later at any time. If you receive care from a number of general practices, and if any of those practices are part of the **PARTNER** Network, you will need to lodge a withdrawal at each participating practice. Withdrawal from the project will NOT affect the direct care that you receive from your doctor.

Patient withdrawal from the PARTNER Network

I have read and understood this information sheet. By withdrawing, I understand that this general practice will stop releasing my de-identified clinical data to the University of Melbourne for **PARTNER** Network research program. I understand that under the Australian Privacy Act (1988), the University of Melbourne can retain and use non-identifiable health information that has already been collected. For more information I can contact the Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne: (03) 8344 3392. Once completed please return this form to your GP or to the practice reception.

First Name Last Name

Address

Date of Birth (Day/Month/Year)

Signature

OFFICE USE ONLY

This form must be retained in the practice in a secure place.

Please do not return this form to the Department of General Practice, The University of Melbourne.

- Patient details verified (Patient details entered must exactly match the information in the GP practice file)
- I confirm that the patient has been excluded from PARTNER Network (GRHANITE) data collection

Name (of person who actioned the request)

Date actioned

Name of Practice