



Invitation to become a PARTNER partner: “Enabling rural primary care clinical trials”

The PARTNER network is a national rural practice-based research network (PBRN) of 90 rural general practices and a related database. Together this will create a clinical trial development and participation resource for:

- Rural Australians
- Rural primary health care professionals
- Researchers.

What will the PARTNER Network do?

- Connect rural Australians to clinical trials through their local general practice
- Create research-ready rural general practices that improve the speed and quality of research
- Improve general practice skill and capacity to develop and conduct rural practice-based research
- Identify and support clinical trials that are relevant to the needs of rural Australians.

How does the PARTNER Network work?

Two pieces of research software are installed on a practice computer:

1. **Torch Recruit™** The University of Melbourne will use Torch Recruit™ software to identify the number patients eligible for specific clinical trials, by using electronic medical record data. No patient-level data leaves the practice.
2. **GRHANITE®** This University of Melbourne-developed software de-identifies data from the practice's electronic medical record before securely depositing it in the University-held Patron primary care data repository. It makes possible data-driven research to increase knowledge and improve healthcare practices and policy.

Local research hubs aligned with local universities support rural general practices with software installation and involvement in clinical trial development and training.

Why get involved?

The PARTNER Network provides many benefits to your practice, your staff, and patients.

- **Improved patient outcome:** Patients in clinical trials often have better outcomes regardless of whether they are in the intervention or control group.
- **Be part of research:** Improve clinical practice and patient outcomes through needed primary care clinical trials and teletrials. The 'secondary' use of de-identified patient data decreases the burden and cost of collecting new data for research.
- **Ongoing education and continuing development activities:** Your practice team will be trained in the conduct of clinical trials.
- **Early exposure to new medicines, devices and models of care**
- **Generate your own research questions and projects:** Participate and contribute to the development of new research that is important to you and meets the clinical needs of your community.
- **Patients like clinical trials:** They have increased access to specialists and can meaningfully contribute to research that helps people with similar conditions.
- **Opportunities for income:** \$2000 sign-up amount for each practice, and opportunities to participate in paid clinical trials.

Privacy protected use of data

With Torch Recruit™, no patient-level data leaves the practice. Only aggregate data is collected, such as the number of patients that may be eligible for a trial.

Use of GRHANITE® software means that practices, staff and patients are not identifiable to researchers working with Patron data. The Patron repository of de-identified primary care data is curated at the University of Melbourne, as part of the Data for Decisions initiative in the Department of General Practice.

Practice eligibility

Participating general practices must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Located in rural or regional area categorised by the Modified Monash Model as MMM3-7.
- Practice clinical software is either Best Practice, Medical Director or Zedmed (not cloud-based or a shared server) and the Edge or Chrome browser is available.
- Have available a PC with Windows 10 or above.
- Stable Internet or NBN connection.

KEY POINTS

- All patient and practitioner-related information is de-identified before it leaves your practice and researchers cannot identify individual clinics
- PARTNER enables your practice to be involved in research without GPs and other staff having to divert time to the activities (the research meets RACGP and ACRRM standards)
- PARTNER also provides opportunities for practices interested in active involvement in research (e.g. invitations to trial or other studies)
- Whole of practice approach involving all practice staff
- The University of Melbourne and Torch Recruit™ maintain high levels of data security and management across all research initiatives with collected information held only within controlled, on-shore, data storage facilities
- The research program is not-for-profit and adheres to strict ethical principles
- An independent Data Governance Committee ensures data governance and compliance
- We are committed to making research outcomes accessible with research projects and their outcomes available on the PARTNER website.

ABOUT US

The PARTNER Network is led by a national team of academic general practitioners and researchers.

These include:

- Prof Jon Emery
(University of Melbourne)
- A/Prof David Gonzalez-Chica
(University of Adelaide)
- A/Prof Andrew Kirke
(University of Western Australia)
- Prof Jan Radford
(University of Tasmania)
- Dr Zoe Schofield
(Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia)
- Prof Nigel Stocks
(University of Adelaide)
- Prof Katharine Wallis
(University of Queensland)

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The PARTNER Network is not for profit.

MORE INFORMATION

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Australian Teletrial Program
Access to clinical trials, closer to home

