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Provider Experiences of Social Prescribing in Canada
Participant Information Sheet

Central University Research Ethics Committee Reference: Oxford Tropical Research Ethics Committee (OxTREC) - 2018832

Introductory paragraph

You are being invited to take part in a research project about healthcare provider experiences with social prescribing in Canada. Before you decide, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully. Feel free to ask any questions or seek clarification. Participation is entirely voluntary.

1. Why is this research being conducted?

This research is part of a doctoral study at the University of Oxford. It explores how healthcare professionals, such as physicians and community paramedics, understand and implement social prescribing—i.e., the process of connecting patients to non-medical community supports to improve their health and wellbeing. The goal is to learn from diverse settings to understand how institutional, relational, and policy factors shape social prescribing practices in Canada.

2. Why have I been invited to take part?

You have been invited because you are a health or social care professional involved in the social prescribing pathway in Canada, whether in a clinical, administrative, or leadership capacity. This includes, but is not limited to, physicians, nurse practitioners, community paramedics, pharmacists, community health workers, program managers, and health system administrators. We are speaking with professionals across a range of settings and provinces.

3. Do I have to take part?

No. It is up to you to decide whether to take part. Participation is voluntary. You may choose not to take part or withdraw at any point before, during, or up to two weeks after the interview. You do not have to give a reason, and there will be no negative consequences. If you choose to withdraw, any identifiable data you have shared will be deleted. Two weeks after your interview, anonymised data is likely to have already been included in the analysis, so it will not be possible to remove it.

4. What will happen to me if I take part in the research?

You will be invited to take part in a one-on-one interview (via Zoom/Teams or in person, depending on your preference). The interview will last approximately 45–60 minutes and will be audio recorded (with your consent). Questions will focus on your professional role, referral practices, your experience with social prescribing or social prescribing-like programs, and your views on program supports or challenges. You may pause or stop the interview at any time. Where interviews are conducted via Microsoft Teams, the platform's built-in automatic transcription feature may also be used. This does not involve any third-party service or additional data sharing beyond the approved Teams arrangement.

5. What are the possible disadvantages and risks in taking part?

There are no major anticipated risks. Some participants may discuss challenging work situations or systemic barriers. You are not required to answer any questions that make you uncomfortable. If needed, we can pause or end the interview and provide a list of peer support or professional wellness services.

6. Are there any benefits in taking part?

There is no direct benefit to you. However, your participation will contribute to a better understanding of how social prescribing is being implemented across different parts of Canada, which may help inform future practice and policy.

7. Expenses and payments

There is no compensation for participation in this study.

8. What information will be collected and why is the collection of this information relevant for achieving the research objectives?

The interview will explore your experiences as a referrer into social prescribing or related services. This helps us understand how social prescribing is practiced in various settings, what challenges exist, and what kinds of supports are helpful. We will also collect limited demographic and professional information (e.g. your role, province, and work setting) to contextualize your experiences.

The following data will be collected:

- Audio recording and verbatim transcript of your interview
- Demographic info (e.g. role, setting, province)
- Contact information (for scheduling)

Your name or other identifying information will not be included in publications. All data will be anonymised during transcription.

Data will be stored securely on the University of Oxford’s Nexus365 OneDrive system and accessed only by the researcher and supervisors. Identifiable data will be deleted at project end. Anonymised data will be retained for at least 3 years after the final publication, in line with Oxford policy.

9. Will the research be published? Could I be identified from any publications or other research outputs?

The findings from the research will be written up in a thesis for Primary Health Care Sciences at the University of Oxford. The research may also appear in academic publications, policy briefs, and conference presentations. You will not be identified. Direct quotes may be used, but any identifying details (e.g. names of people, places, or organisations) will be removed or changed to ensure confidentiality. A copy of my dissertation will be deposited online in the Oxford University Research Archive where it will be publicly available to facilitate its use in future research.

10. Data Protection

The University of Oxford is the data controller with respect to your personal data, and as such will determine how your personal data is used in the research. The University will process your personal data for the purpose of the research outlined above. Research is a task that is performed in the public interest. Further information about your rights with respect to your personal data is available from the University's Information Compliance website at https://compliance.admin.ox.ac.uk/individual-rights.

11. Who is funding the research?

This research is funded by the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and the Rhodes Trust.

12. Who has reviewed this research?

This research has received favourable opinion from a subcommittee of the University of Oxford Tropical Research Ethics Committee (OxTREC) (Ethics reference: 2018832**)**.

13. Who do I contact if I have a concern about the research or I wish to complain?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this research, please contact my supervisors. We will do our best to answer your query. We will acknowledge your concern within 10 working days and give you an indication of how it will be dealt with. If you remain unhappy or wish to make a formal complaint, please contact the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at the University of Oxford who will seek to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

Name	Contact
Dr. Stephanie Tierney, Supervisor	stephanie.tierney@phc.ox.ac.uk
Dr. Marta Wanat, Supervisor	marta.wanat@phc.ox.ac.uk
Chair of *Medical Sciences Interdivisional Research Ethics Committee*	ethics@medsci.ox.ac.uk
University of Oxford Research Governance, Ethics & Assurance (RGEA) team	rgea.complaints@admin.ox.ac.uk or on +44 (0)1865 616480.

14. Further Information and Contact Details

If you would like to discuss the research with someone beforehand (or if you have questions afterwards), please contact:

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