

Physicians

Information letter for interview participants: Engaging Healthcare Providers in Return-to-Work

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Project Coordinator: Marni Lifshen (Institute for Work & Health, Toronto)
Sponsor: SafeWork Manitoba, Research and Workplace Innovation Program

What is this study about? The purpose of this study is to learn about the role of health care providers (HCPs) in the workers' compensation and return to work (RTW) process. We are interviewing health care providers and case managers in your region to learn more about the role of HCPs in RTW after injury or illness.

Who is going to participate? We will be conducting one-on-one interviews with approximately 100 health care providers and about 35 case managers across a range of jurisdictions. Interviews will be conducted in person or on the phone.

What is the time commitment? The interview will take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

What kind of questions will you be asked? We are interested in hearing about programs, policies or practices that help engage HCPs in the RTW process in your region. We will ask you questions about what you see as the role of HCPs in RTW; about the RTW process in general; about your experience working with other stakeholders in the system (employers, other HCPs, etc) and about any challenges or surprising things you have encountered around the role of HCPs in the RTW process. Most of the questions are open-ended so it is up to you what you share and what you do not.

Do I need to inform my manager or co-workers that I am participating? It is up to you to decide whom you choose to inform. Unless your employer, manager or co-worker referred you to this study, they won't know you participated (see privacy and confidentiality, below). We are happy to conduct the interview outside of regular working hours to further ensure your privacy.

What is the Institute for Work and Health? This project is based at The Institute for Work & Health (IWH). IWH is a non-government, non-profit, research organisation in Toronto. We conduct and share research with policy-makers, workers and workplaces, clinicians and health

& safety professionals. Our research is driven by two broad goals. The first is to protect healthy workers by studying the prevention of work-related injury and illness. The second is to improve the health and recovery of injured workers. More information on IWH is available on our website (www.iwh.on.ca)

Risks: There are no known significant risks from participating in this study. You can refuse to answer any question and only volunteer information that you want. We will keep all information you provide confidential.

Benefits: At the end of the study we will provide you with a lay summary of research findings. As someone working in this field, you may find this information useful in your day to day work. We will also compensate you with \$100 for your time.

Confidentiality and Privacy: All the information collected during the study, such as the audio-recordings of the interviews and the transcripts are confidential and will be viewed only by the researchers directly involved in this project. They will be kept securely for a period of five years and then destroyed through confidential shredding. This consent letter will be stored separately from your interview recording and transcript in order to protect your identity. All materials will be kept in locked filing cabinets at the Institute for Work & Health. No one but the immediate research team will know any personal information about who participated in the study. If, however, another person referred you for this interview it is possible that you may be identifiable to them in written reports or papers.

The researchers will keep the information you provide confidential. Your name will not appear in any article, documentation or reports. Anonymous quotations may be used but will be attributed only to a general title (case manager, HCP) and in ways that ensure you cannot be identified. In our reporting we may however, identify your jurisdiction (e.g. Ontario) and the relevant workers' compensation board (if applicable).

Voluntary Participation: Your participation in this study is voluntary. You may decide not to be in this study at any time without any consequence. Information about participants who refuse to participate (their name and contact information) will be deleted or removed from our files. You may refuse to answer any question you do not want to answer in the interview.

This project has been reviewed by, and received ethics clearance through, the University of Toronto Health Sciences Ethics Committee. If you have a complaint concerning the manner in which this research is conducted, please contact:

Health Sciences Research Ethics Board
Office of Research Ethics
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Toronto, ON M5S 1S8
Tel: 416-946-3273
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Email: ethics.review@utoronto.ca

If you have questions regarding the study, please contact Agnieszka Kosny (study PI) via email at akosny@iwh.on.ca at 416 927-2027 (x2195), or Marni Lifshen (the study co-ordinator) toll-free at **1-855-884-1416** or email at mlifshen@iwh.on.ca