



8/03/2017

Dear Doctor,

**An invitation to be part of the important NHMRC-funded OPAL study**



Opioid analgesics are one of the most common analgesics used to treat acute spinal pain in Australia. However there is no evidence of efficacy.

We would like to invite you to participate in an NHMRC-funded clinical trial. *OPAL: opioid analgesia for acute spinal pain* will investigate the important question of whether a short course of an opioid analgesic reduces pain severity compared to placebo in people who are slow to recover from acute spinal pain. The study will also investigate whether there is long term risk of opioid misuse.

**If you participate, your role will be to:**

- Identify and screen patients who present with acute neck pain and/or back pain
- Gain the patient's informed consent or facilitate this process
- Provide prescription of study medication and monitor your patient throughout the 6-week treatment period
- Inform the study centre when a participant has been recruited

**As an active clinician in the study you will:**

- Receive an honorarium for the time spent on study-related activities for each eligible participant enrolled
- Receive regular evidence-based research information in the study area
- Be supported by a dedicated study team on study-related activities

The OPAL study is run by an experienced team at The George Institute for Global Health, in affiliation with the University of Sydney, and has been designed to minimise disruption to normal clinical practice. If you are interested in participating in the study please complete and fax back the attached form, and we will contact you with further details.

We look forward to working with you on this important study.

Kind Regards,

**PROFESSOR CHRIS MAHER** | BAppSc(Phty), PhD, FACP

Director, Musculoskeletal Division NHMRC Senior Research Fellow

Professor, Sydney Medical School, The University of Sydney



Opioid analgesia for acute spinal pain

**OPAL study centre: The George Institute for Global Health**

**Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney**

**Phone: (02) 8052 4412**

**Mobile: 0406 995 987**

**Email: [opal@georgeinstitute.org.au](mailto:opal@georgeinstitute.org.au)**

**Expression of interest will allow us to prepare the necessary procedures to set up the study.**

**Please tick one below:**

I am interested in finding out more information.

I am **NOT** interested in the study

Name:

Address:

Email:

Contact number:

Best time to contact:

Date:

**Please fax this form to: (02) 8624 4746**