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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



Improvements in chronic disease management

The uptake and effectiveness of current guidelines for the prevention of chronic disease will be re-examined under a ground-breaking research project.

A partnership between the University of New South Wales Centre for Primary Health Care and Equity (CPHCE), the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), the National Heart Foundation of Australia (NHFA) and the MBF Foundation has been funded to conduct the evaluation.

“This is the first time that such a partnership has been formed. The joint resources of four universities, non-government and private sectors will be harnessed to ensure that Australian general practice can more effectively contribute to the prevention of chronic disease,” said Professor Mark Harris, chief investigator on the project.

“Prevention of chronic disease is a critically important because it represents such a substantial demand on the health care system and the communities’ health and well being. General practice provides consultations to approximately 86% of Australians each year and is well suited to implementing preventative care. However, in practice there is a gap between what is known is effective and the uptake of preventive care for chronic conditions,” Professor Harris said.

The project will review the strategies used by GPs and general practices to implement prevention, as recommended in RACGP preventive guidelines and National Heart Foundation publications. Under scrutiny will be factors such as the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of general practice teams and their patients. The project will include interviews about preventive care with GPs and patients as well as a clinical audit of de-identified medical records.

Findings will be used to design, trial and evaluate ways to improve the implementation of the RACGP, NHFA and NHMRC guidelines for prevention of chronic disease in general practice. The success of this in changing doctor and patient behaviour and will then be evaluated and any improved strategy disseminated to general practitioners.

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Media contacts

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About the RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) sets and maintains the standards for quality clinical practice, education and training, and research in Australian general practice, and represents Australia's urban and rural general practitioners.

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