# Heart Disease Collaborative

The University of Sydney, in partnership with the Improvement Foundation (IF), and with support from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), invite you to participate in a study aimed at improving the care of people living with heart disease.

This study uses contains three elements, one of which is a Collaborative aimed at supporting general practices to improve the management and secondary prevention for patients with coronary heart disease.

Through the Collaborative, the study aims to provide data about whether quality improvement reduces hospitalisations and costs, and about how it can be implemented in an efficient and sustainable way.

# What are the benefits of being involved?

Participation in the Collaborative will provide your general practice with an opportunity to participate in national level research funded by NHMRC and enable you to achieve the following:

* improved identification of patients with heart disease and enhanced management of these patients
* enhanced use of GP Management Plans and Team Care Arrangements
* increased patient satisfaction and longer ongoing engagement with their primary healthcare provider
* improved team dynamics and working environment
* improved business performance and best practice care through the better use of clinical and business systems
* a culture of quality improvement that is transferable to other aspects of the business and patient care
* alignment with the quality improvement component of the 5th edition accreditation standards for general practice
* access to Continuing Professional Development points for GPs and other healthcare professionals
* the ability to contribute to understanding the impact of a quality improvement intervention.

# What is required of participating practices?

General practices that express interest to participate will be randomly allocated to either:

1. Intervention arm, in which they will actively engage in the Collaborative program, including meeting the following minimum requirements:
   * a GP and another practice member to attend and actively participate in orientation and all learning workshops
   * set aside regular, dedicated time to undertake quality improvement activities between learning workshops
   * apply the Model for Improvement tool and submit monthly Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA) cycles to support change activity within the practice
   * collect and submit monthly data to support improvement activities.
2. Control arm, in which they are only required to submit monthly data. To recognise the effort made by participants in the control arm, they will be provided with a virtual quality improvement training package to enhance their skills in quality improvement.

# Ethics approval and waiver of consent

Ethical approval and a Waiver of Consent has been obtained, so there is no need to collect individual patient consent, as may be the case in other clinical trials. Practices enrolled in the study will automatically allow for electronic patient data collection via the waiver of consent.

# How will this Collaborative be delivered?

This Collaborative will be delivered via two day long (face-to-face) workshops to be held in Western Sydney and Brisbane (practices to attend at their closest location) and three virtual workshops. Virtual workshops are delivered via webinar technology and attendees will log-in via their computer (for no longer than an hour).

Learning workshops (LW) will be held as per the following draft schedule, with exact dates and locations to be provided once recruitment and venue confirmations have been finalised.

* LW1 (face-to-face) 19 October 2019 (Brisbane), 2 November 2019 (Sydney)
* LW2 (virtual) November 2019
* LW3 (virtual) February 2020
* LW4 (virtual) April 2020
* LW5 (face-to-face) June 2020

# Payments for participants

To acknowledge the time participants are taking out of their clinical practice to support this program, a payment of $400 (including GST) will be provided per practice in the intervention arm that attend both face-to-face workshops.

# Support for participating practices

Participants in the program will be supported to achieve the program requirements and maximise outcomes. Practices in the intervention arm will receive virtual support (phone, email, webinar) and, where feasible, on-site support to undertake change activity in between workshops and share achievements over the course of the program.

# Register your interest now!

To express your interest in this Collaborative, please complete the following [form](http://www.123formbuilder.com/form-4865395/heart-disease-collaborative-general-practice-expression-of-interest).

If you require further information, please contact your PHN or the Improvement Foundation at [collaborative@improve.org.au,](mailto:collaborative@improve.org.au) or phone (08) 8422 7400.

Once expressions of interest have been received, a selection process will be undertaken prior to confirming involvement in this program.