

# **Establishing a Community of Practice: A Protocol for the Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support Network (AusCAPPS) Study**

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## **Background**

One-third of Australian women experience an unintended pregnancy in their lifetime with 30% of these ending in abortion. Long acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) methods are effective in preventing pregnancy, however, knowledge and uptake of LARC remains low. LARC and medical termination of pregnancy (MTO) can be provided in primary care, however there is a lack of education, training and support for general practitioners (GPs), practice nurses and community pharmacists in providing these services, resulting in many feeling unsupported and isolated.

The primary objective is to establish, deliver and evaluate AusCAPPS - a multidisciplinary online community of practice (CoP) supporting GPs, pharmacists and nurses working in primary care to deliver LARC and MTO services. Secondary objectives are to increase the number of GPs and pharmacists certified to provide/dispense MTO and increase LARC and MTO prescriptions.

## **Methods**

We will undertake a mixed methods intervention to develop and implement the CoP. Knowledge, attitudes and practices pre- and post-implementation will be assessed through a national survey. The CoP will be developed via a knowledge exchange workshop with key stakeholders and implemented for 24-months. A process evaluation of the intervention will involve google analytics, telephone interviews and analysis of LARC uptake and MTO access through PBS and MBS data.

## **Results**

It is anticipated that AusCAPPS will support increased availability of LARC and MTO services for women in Australia.

## **Conclusion**

AusCAPPS will increase access to much needed practice support, resources, education and training; provide regional peer-networking opportunities; drive innovation; and coordinate sustainable improvements in access and equity of these services nationwide.

## **Disclosure of interest statement**

None

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