



EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project ID: HREC/106751/Alfred-2024

Project title: ACCELERATE-CP: A pragmatic Cluster randomised trial to Evaluate a prehospital model of care involving Risk Assessment, point-of-care Troponin, and virtual ED to accelerate the provision of definitive care for Chest Pain.

<p>Professor Dion Stub Cardiology Medical Advisor Ambulance Victoria Phone: +61 3 9903 0759 Email: Dion.Stub@monash.edu.au</p>	<p>Dr Ziad Nehme Director, Centre for Research and Evaluation Ambulance Victoria Phone: +61 3 9896 6091 Email: Ziad.Nehme@ambulance.vic.gov.au</p>
--	--

You are invited to take part in a survey being undertaken in the Centre for Research and Evaluation, Ambulance Victoria in association with Monash University. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact the researchers via the phone numbers or email addresses listed above.

Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee have reviewed and provided independent ethics approval for this work.

What does the research involve?

The overall aim of this work is to assess the safety and health service impacts of a new model of care (clinical practice guideline) for low-risk patients experiencing chest pain that involves individual patient risk assessment and the use of the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department (Northern Health).

The specific aim of the current study is to understand what happens to patients after they have been attended by Ambulance Victoria for chest pain. Two groups of patients are involved in the trial – the first undergoes care as usual which is transport to hospital for further testing and treatment; and the other undergoes our new pathway which involves blood collection via a cannula (a small flexible tube that is inserted into a vein), testing your blood for signs of heart damage and a call to the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department.

We will contact you via text message at 7 days and 30 days following Ambulance Victoria attending you for chest pain and ask you to spare 10 minutes of your time answering a few questions about your chest pain. We will ask you whether you have been to hospital or had any tests for your chest pain.

We may also ask you about your health, wellbeing and your experience with the care and treatment provided by Ambulance Victoria. These additional questions will be asked via text message at the 30-day timepoint.

Combining answers to the questions we ask from many patients will help us to understand whether the new model of care for patients experiencing chest pain is safe and effective.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes of your time. All your answers will remain anonymous.

Why were you chosen for this research?

You have been chosen to take part in this research because you are an individual who experienced chest pain and called Ambulance Victoria for care. We obtained your contact details from the patient care record written by paramedics who attended you for your chest pain.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

When we contact you by text message, if you complete the survey, this means you have consented to taking part in the project. You do not need to sign anything. This is known as implied consent.

Your involvement is completely voluntary. If your phone number has changed, you have any queries/concerns regarding us contacting you, or do not wish to be contacted please email the research team on optoutACCELERATE@monash.edu. If you do decide not to take part in the survey there will be no consequences to you and it won't affect your relationship with Ambulance Victoria, or care by Ambulance Victoria in the future.

You have the right to withdraw from further participation in this survey at any stage. There will be no implications to you if you do withdraw. If you do withdraw your consent, the study investigator and relevant study staff will not collect additional personal information from you, although personal information already collected will be retained to ensure that the results of the research project can be measured properly and to comply with law. You should be aware that data collected by the researchers up to the time you withdraw will form part of the research project results.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

While the findings of this study will provide valuable information, there will be no clear benefit to you from your participation in this research. However, you will be providing valuable insights that will help future patients who require Ambulance Victoria care for chest pain. We do not expect that there are any possible risks associated with participating in this research.

If you become upset or distressed because of your participation in the research, the study investigator will be able to arrange for counselling or other appropriate support. Any counselling or support will be provided by qualified staff who are not members of the research project team. This counselling will be provided free of charge.

Confidentiality

Ambulance Victoria will maintain your confidentiality and anonymity of the data collected. Some information about you will be shared between approved members of the project team but only de-identified and group information will be used for broader research publication. No data will be reported that can identify any individual. We will publish grouped results internally and we may also present grouped data at a conference or in a scientific paper, but once again, no individual patients will be identified.

Storage of data

Data from medical records relating to your attendance for chest pain from various sources (e.g. Ambulance Victoria and the Victorian Virtual Emergency Department or hospital you may have been transported to) has been collected as part of this work and is being stored in electronic form within a database. To correctly link different sources of data about you, we may need to use identifiers to accurately link information about you from different sources. For all other data sharing purposes, we will replace your identifiers with a unique code. All data collected will be kept on a secure password protected server at Monash University maintaining confidentiality in accordance with local legislation. Data collected will be stored on a university managed secure platform located in Australia that complies with all applicable data protection and privacy obligations. Only authorised Ambulance Victoria and Monash University study personnel will have access to data. The researchers involved in this project acknowledge the sensitive nature of the content of some of the information that has been collected from you. Access to all information will be password protected. All information will be kept for 7 years. After this time, all information (electronic and hard copy) will be destroyed.

Results

The findings of work performed using the data we collect from you may be included in research publications. If you wish to receive an email link to an annual report, please let us know when we conduct the telephone interview.

Complaints

Should you have any concerns or complaints about the conduct of the project, you are welcome to contact the Complaints Officer at the Alfred Health Office of Ethics and Research Governance.

Complaints Officer
Alfred Health Office of Ethics and Research Governance

Tel: +61 3 9076 3619 Email: research@alfred.org.au

Thank you,

Professor Dion Stub