



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

Participants Wanted

Have you worked as an Oncology Nurse through Covid -19?

Do you wear facemasks in your workplace?

Kia ora. I am a post graduate student at Massey University completing a Master of Nursing Degree. I work in an Oncology Unit as a Registered Nurse.

The focus of this study concerns the experiences of nurses working in the oncology environment while facemasks have been mandatory. Emphasis is on any challenges this may have created regarding inter-relational communication and empathy with patients, whānau, and colleagues.

I would like to invite Nurses who work or have worked recently in the Oncology sector and their experiences with communication long-term mask wearing.

Your details and the information that you share will remain entirely confidential.

This will involve an interview that will take approximately one hour.

Please contact me if you would be interested in participating in this research or would like to know more about it.

Researcher: Amanda Grant-Berkahn

E-mail: agbcheese@yahoo.co.nz

Mobile: 0277117392

This research study has ethics approval from Massey University Human ethics and has been recorded as low risk research project. The notification number is 4000027251.



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

What is the effect of facemasks on relational communication and empathy from a New Zealand Oncology Nurse perspective

Participant Information Sheet

Principle researcher

Amanda Grant-Berkahn.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to participate in a study that is exploring the experiences and perceptions of Oncology Nurses regarding communication and empathy who have been working while masks have been deemed mandatory in the workplace.

Who is the Researcher?

My name is Amanda Grant-Berkahn and I am a registered nurse who has been working in the Oncology sector for the past 10 years. I am completing this research project as part of a Massey University Master of Nursing degree. My supervisor is Philip Ferris-Day who is a lecturer at Massey University. As a nurse working in the current environment where masks continue to be used for prolonged periods, I have become very interested in how nurses feel that this may have affected their nursing practice regarding relational communication between colleagues and patients and the effect facemasks may have had on the demonstration of empathy in caring for oncology patients.

What is this research about?

Covid-19 has been with us since 2019 and while the mandated use of face masks has been stopped in most public places in New Zealand the health sector continues to use them to protect our vulnerable patients. While there is some research about the effects of facemasks on communication there is none that has focused on New Zealand oncology nurses making this an important phenomenon to investigate.



What type of participants are required?

Registered Nurses who have worked in the New Zealand Adult Oncology sector between 2019 and 2023 who have used facemasks continuously in the workplace.

How will recruitment take place?

Advertisements will be placed in professional social media with the potential for word of mouth from the advertisement to encourage participants. This a small study it will involve 4-6 participants. For those that are interested in participating in this study I invite you to contact me via e-mail, phone, or text message.

What would this involve if I choose to take part?

If you choose to take part in this study, you will need to read the information sheet and sign the consent form. There will be a loosely structured interview via a zoom meeting which will last for approximately 60 minutes. There may be a need for a further short interview to clarify anything that is said in the first interview. The interview will be recorded but you can decline to answer any questions or ask for the recorder to be turned off at any time. After the interview the recording will be transcribed to find the general themes that are present in all participant interviews which will then be collated and written up in a report. You are welcome to have a copy of the transcription of your interview. Your details will remain anonymous, and the data will be kept in a safe place with the recording deleted after transcription has occurred and the transcription destroyed after five years. Your name will not be used in the research report, and you will be invited to choose your own pseudonym if you wish.

Participation in this study is voluntary and as such you are under no obligation to accept this invitation. If you decide to participate you have the right to

- Decline to answer any question.
- Withdraw from the study at any time.
- Ask questions about the study at any time.
- Provide information on the understanding that your name will not be used.
- Be given access to a summary of the project findings after completion.



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

- Ask for the recorder to be turned off at any time.

Ethical Approval

This project has been evaluated by peer review and judged to be low risk. Consequently, it has not been reviewed by one of the University's Human Ethics Committees. The researcher named above are responsible for the ethical conduct of this research.

If you have any concerns about the conduct of this research that you wish to raise with someone other than the researcher, please contact Prof Craig Johnson, Director, Research Ethics, telephone 06 356 9099 x 85271, email humanethics@massey.ac.nz".

The ethical notification number for this project is: 4000027251.

Contacts

If you have any further questions about this study or wish to participate, please contact

Amanda Grant-Berkahn (Master student) (agbcheese@yahoo.co.nz)
ph: 0277117392

Philip Ferris-Day (Supervisor) (P.Ferris-Day@massey.ac.nz)
ph: 04921270034



MASSEY UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF HEALTH
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

What is the effect of facemasks on relational communication and Empathy from a New Zealand Oncology Nurse perspective?

Informed Consent Form

I have read and understand the information sheet about this research project and have had the details of it explained to me.

Any questions about it have been answered to my satisfaction and I am aware I can ask further questions at any time.

I have had sufficient time to consider if I want to participate.

I understand that my participation is voluntary, and I can withdraw from the study at any time.

I agree to the interview being recorded.

I understand that the recording of my interview will be deleted after transcription takes place and the transcribed notes will be kept in a secure place and disposed of after 5 years.

I understand that this study involves an interview of my experiences, and I can decline to answer any question.

I understand I can withdraw from the study at any time.

Declaration from Participant

I, _____ (print full name) hereby consent to take part in this study.

Signature: _____

Date: _____