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| Participant Information Sheet  |  |
| Study title: | **Oral corticosteroid use in asthma – a survey study**  |
| Locality: | Auckland  | Ethics committee ref.: AHREC 29612 |  |
| Lead investigator: | A/Prof Amy Chan | Contact phone number: | 09 373 7599 ext 85524 |

You are invited to take part in a study which aims to explore the experiences of taking oral steroids for asthma. This study is a Pharmacy student final year Honours project which is part of a larger study where we are looking to understand the patient, health provider, and health system factors that influence oral corticosteroid use. We want to find out from you what you think about, and how you feel, taking oral corticosteroids. We will do this using an anonymous online survey of people who have taken oral corticosteroids for asthma in the past.

This Participant Information Sheet will help you decide if you’d like to take part. It sets out why we are doing the study, what your participation would involve, what the benefits and risks to you might be, and what will happen after the study ends. If needed, please feel free to contact the research team so we can go through this information with you. You do not have to decide today whether or not you will participate in this study. Before you decide you may want to talk about the study with other people, such as family, whānau, friends, or healthcare providers. Feel free to do this.

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Whether or not you take part will not affect your academic studies or grades, employment or healthcare that you receive. If you agree to take part in this study, please complete the survey.

## What is the purpose of the study?

At present there has been very little research undertaken to understand people’s specific views about oral steroid use in asthma. This study aims to explore the perceptions and beliefs of people living with asthma and their experiences of taking oral corticosteroid pills. We will do this by conducting an anonymous online survey.

## What will my participation in the study involve?

You have been invited to take part as you have asthma or are a carer/parent of someone with asthma, are aged 18 years or older, and have experience taking oral steroids for asthma. If you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete a brief 10 minute survey about your experiences with asthma, perceptions about oral corticosteroids use and provide some information about you, such as your age, ethnicity and gender. Taking part in this survey and clicking the next arrow at the bottom right of this page is taken as consent to participate. You can choose to have a support person or whānau member present to help complete part of the survey if you wish.

Your survey responses will be stored securely and your response will be coded using a unique identifier so you will stay anonymous. The information will be combined with those from all other participating patients. The information will be analysed to explore the experiences, views and attitudes about asthma and oral steroid pills. The information will be summarised in a written report – none of the information will be presented in a way that could potentially identify you. The data we collect will be stored for a period of 6 years.

You may change your mind and decide to stop the survey before or during the survey. You do not need to give a reason. You may change your mind about taking part before you submit the survey response and it will not affect the healthcare you receive now or in the future. However, once your survey response has been submitted, it will not be possible to remove your response as the survey is anonymous and we won’t be able to identify your response. We will not collect any IP addresses, however incomplete responses will still be analysed.

Whether or not you take part is your choice, and it will not have any effect on the care you receive now or in the future.

If you complete the survey, you will have the opportunity to go into the prize draw consisting of four x $50 online retail vouchers. After you complete the survey, you will be asked to provide your email address if you would like to enter the prize draw. If you provide your email address for the prize draw, you will be taken to a separate survey link so that we can’t link your email for the prize draw to your survey responses.

What will happen after the study?

After the study, the survey data collected will be stored for a minimum of 6 years on a secure University of Auckland server then subsequently destroyed. The email addresses used for the prize draw will be deleted 1 month after the prize draw is completed.

The project findings will written up in a dissertation as part of the Pharmacy Honours degree programme requirements and subsequently submitted to a peer-reviewed journal and /or conference for presentation. All participants who take part have the option of being emailed a short summary of the results within 6 months after the study is completed– if you wish to receive this, please provide your email address at the end of the survey. If you do want to provide your email address, you will be taken to a separate survey link so that we can’t link your email that you provide for the results summary to your survey responses.

Who do I contact for more information or if I have concerns?

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about the study at any stage, you can contact Associate Professor Amy Chan (Principal Investigator) Email: a.chan@auckland.ac.nz:

**Name of Principal Investigator/Supervisor (PI):**

Associate Professor Amy Chan, School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland

**Name of student researcher:**

Mr Jack Wang, School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland

**Name of Co-investigator(s):**

Dr Jay Gong, School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland

Dr Mohammed Mohammed, School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland

Mr Adam Wright-St Clair, School of Nursing, University of Auckland

Mr Liam Petrie, School of Medicine, University of Auckland

**Name of Clinical Advisor(s)**

Dr Christina Baggott, Te Whatu Ora Waikato

Dr Cat Chang, Te Whatu Ora Waikato

Dr Stuart Jones, Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau

Dr Elaine Yap, Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau

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| **Principal investigator:**A/Prof Amy ChanSchool of PharmacyThe University of Auckland Private Bag 92019 Auckland, New Zealand85 Park Road, GraftonTelephone: (09) 923 5224Fax: (09) 367 7192Email: a.chan@auckland.ac.nz | **Head of School:** A/Prof Shane ScahillSchool of PharmacyThe University of Auckland Private Bag 92019 Auckland, New Zealand85 Park Road, GraftonTelephone: (09) 923 5226Fax: (09) 367 7192Email: s.scahill@auckland.ac.nz |

For concerns of an ethical nature, you can contact the Chair of the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee at ahrec@auckland.ac.nz or at 373 7599 x 83711, or at Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee, The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019, Auckland 1142.

If you require Māori cultural support, talk to your whānau in the first instance. You may also contact the administrator for He Kamaka Waiora (Māori Health Team) by telephoning 09 486 8324 ext 2324, or contact the Auckland and Waitematā District Health Boards Māori Research Committee or Māori Research Advisor by phoning 09 4868920 ext 3204 to discuss any questions or complaints about the study.

**Thank you** for reading this and considering participating.

Approved by the Auckland Health Research Ethics Committee on 6 June 2025 for three years. Reference number 29612