

ATHENA COVID-19 Study

Principal Investigator: Professor Kim Greaves,

Senior Medical Officer, Queensland Health,

BSc, MBBS, MD, FRCP (UK), FRACP

GPs – Why support the Queensland Health ATHENA COVID-19 Study? (ACV-19 Study)

The Australians Together HEalth INitiAtive) COVID-19 Study

The ATHENA COVID-19 Study will examine patient health information from general practices, hospitals and registries from approximately 1000 previous cases of COVID and potentially the next 1000 cases.

1. The ATHENA COVID-19 study will answer vital questions about which medical conditions, medicines and other health characteristics are most associated with mild, moderate, and severe COVID-19 in our population.
2. Most of the information we have on COVID-19 comes from overseas populations. Although helpful, this may be very different to what happens in Australia. We therefore need to collect local information to help us understand how COVID-19 behaves in an Australian population.
3. General practice records hold key information to better understand how COVID-19 impacts our population but we need the help of GP clinics to send us a one-time only copy of the complete patient's file. We will request, only after patient consent, current patient Health Information held within a compatible PMS within your practice. It only takes moments to upload to our secure portal.
4. The study has the support of RACGP, Queensland Health and Primary Health Networks and each patient who has consented to participate.
5. The study has ethics approval and is compliant with privacy legislation.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the data export process and transfer of patient healthcare information be secure?

There is a potential risk to your patient's privacy and health information security if there is a breach of Queensland Health's privacy and data security practices. This has a low likelihood of occurring as our Queensland Health operates within strict standards for the transfer of information from your General Practice to Queensland Health. The transfer of health information follows standard policies and procedures for electronic security as per health services, Queensland Health and the Department of Health (State).

Does the data export process affect the functioning of my practice management system?

No, the data export process will not affect the functioning of your practice management system. The two systems are entirely separate.

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Does the data export process require any training?

No specific training is needed. The patient health information export process is very simple, and we will provide written instructions to make this straightforward to undertake. You may also call our support staff in the ACV-19 Coordination Centre to help you work through the process.

Will the process of transferring data take up much of my staff's time?

The process takes less than 5 minutes to complete

Who can undertake the data export process in my practice?

Your practice manager, trained receptionist and/or practice nurse can undertake the health information transfer – however this is ultimately decided by your practice policies.

Will the data be used for anything else other than research?

The data will only be used for the purposes granted by the ethics committee ie: COVID-19 related research only.

Will my practice be identifiable in any publications or reports?

Individual practices will be not identifiable. Any means of identifying practices at an individual level (such as practice names) will be removed. ie: de-identified before being passed onto researchers. Any relative differences by geographic location will be at postcode level only.

How will I find out about any study results?

The first set of results are expected by October 2020. A summary of results will be published in PHN and RACGP newsletters at that time. Full details will also be available on the ATHENA COVID-19 website <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/research-reports/research-projects/athena-covid-19>

Can I claim any continuing professional development credits for participating in this study?

Unfortunately, the process of transferring data does not meet the requirements for providing CPD points.

If I have any questions or wish to know more about the study, how do I do this?

You can either go the ATHENA COVID-19 website <https://www.health.qld.gov.au/research-reports/research-projects/athena-covid-19>

or contact a member of the ATHENA COVID-19 team lead by Dr Zoltan Bourne on Ph: (07) 4243 4813 or via email ATHENACOVID19@health.qld.gov.au

For additional information about our team please refer to the included organization chart outlining our research partners participating in the project.

Thank you for reviewing our Project Details

Kind Regards

Professor Kim Greaves

Senior Medical Specialist, Queensland Health

Principal Investigator & Project Lead

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