**Title**

Qualitative insights into opioid prescribing practices of Victorian GPs

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**Background**

Opioids are commonly used for the management of pain and are restricted narcotics in Australia. Encouraging safe evidence-based opioid prescribing is a fundamental necessity for public health. In addition to the serious risks of misuse, abuse, addiction and diversion into illicit channels, opioids also have significant adverse effects and morbidity.

There is a major deficit in the published literature discussing the major concerns, attitudes, beliefs and personal experiences that shape and influence Australian GP opioid prescribing. BEACH, PBS and coronial court data provide statistically measurable information but offer no qualitative insights into the underlying factors influencing prescribing.

**Aims**

Our aims are to explore Victorian GP behaviours, knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding opioid prescribing. This data will inform subsequent doctoral study to encourage implementation of the RACGP opioid prescribing guidelines in routine general practice and improve safe opioid prescribing.

**Method**

Approximately 20 GPs recruited from the MonReN network, will take part in a semi-structured interview of up to 60 minutes by telephone. Interviews will be transcribed verbatim and thematic analysis used to identify emergent themes.

**Results**

This research is being conducted as part of the RACGP academic post program 2018. Results will be available mid 2018.

**Conclusion**

To improve community health and reduce unsafe prescription opioid use, routine evidence-based prescribing of opioids needs to be encouraged in Australian general practice. Our study highlights common GP themes and concerns influencing prescribing. Addressing these in the routine implementation of guidelines will support both doctors and patients.