

Letter of Information & Consent

RECOGNIZING AND RESPONDING TO THE COMMONLY MISUNDERSTOOD REACTIONS TO SEXUAL ASSAULT

You are being invited to complete the *Recognizing and Responding to the Commonly Misunderstood Reactions to Sexual Assault* online curriculum. In order to complete the online curriculum, you will be required to participate in an evaluation of the curriculum. The evaluation is being conducted by Drs. Robin Mason and Janice Du Mont, Violence and Health Research Program, Women's College Research Institute and Ms. Sheila Macdonald, Women's College Hospital and Ontario Network of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centres who oversaw the development of the online curriculum.

Why is an evaluation of the online curriculum taking place? The online curriculum has been developed by a provincial expert panel with funding provided by the Government of Ontario. The online curriculum is competency-based, with competencies derived from the research literature and reviewed by a large group of stakeholders from across the province. Under the terms of the contract with the province, we have agreed to evaluate the curriculum for its ability to improve social service and healthcare providers' sense of competency when assisting survivors of sexual assault who are experiencing commonly misunderstood reactions.

What do I need to do? If you agree to participate in completing the online curriculum you will be asked to provide demographic information including your gender, age, profession, level of education and the extent of your previous training in gender-based violence. You are not required to provide demographic information. If you do not feel comfortable providing this information, you may select the "Prefer not to say" button.

You will be required to complete a pre-test and a post-test which will evaluate your knowledge on the range of topics addressed in the curriculum. You will also be asked to complete a follow-up test 3 months after you complete the online curriculum. The 3-month follow-up test will be accessed through a link sent to you via email. Your email address will not be shared with other organizations or lists.

The topics on the pre-test, post-test and 3-month follow-up test include the problem of sexual assault in Canada, understanding the complexity of sexual assault within the context of individual and social experience, the neurobiology of the trauma of sexual assault and recognizing and responding to commonly misunderstood reactions to sexual assault. On the 3-month follow-up test we will also ask about any changes you may have made to your practice as a result of participation in the online curriculum.

Do I have to take part? Participation in the online curriculum is entirely voluntary. However, to access the online curriculum, you will be required to complete the pre-test and post-test evaluations.

If you do consent to participate in the online curriculum, you are free to stop participating at any time. You do not need to provide a reason for stopping participation. If you stop participating, all information provided by you will be destroyed.

Confidentiality and anonymity: The data will be held in a password protected database accessible only by the evaluation team and will be kept confidential to the extent possible. No individuals will be named or otherwise

identified in any resulting publications or presentations. The data will be held for a period of 5 years, after which it will be destroyed.

How will my information be used? The data collected from this survey and users on the system will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of this online curriculum on recognizing and responding to the commonly misunderstood reactions to sexual assault with the goal of providing the best possible care to survivors of sexual assault.

Risks and benefits to participation in the online curriculum: There are no known risks to participating in the online curriculum. Potential benefits include increased knowledge of sexual assault and reactions experienced by survivors of sexual assault which may be beneficial when caring for sexual assault survivors.

If you have any questions about the project please contact: Dr. Robin Mason at robin.mason@wchospital.ca. You may also contact Melissa Sidhu, REB Coordinator, Women's College Hospital at melissa.sidhu@wchospital.ca if you have concerns about this letter of information and consent.

Information

The online curriculum on sexual assault has been developed by a provincial expert panel with funding provided by the province of Ontario and is made available to Ontario residents free of charge. The curriculum is competency-based with competencies derived from the research literature and reviewed by a large group of stakeholders from across the province. Under the terms of the contract with the province we have agreed to evaluate the curriculum for its ability to improve health care providers' knowledge and sense of competency when treating patients who may have experienced sexual assault. This will be done through a pre-test/post-test evaluation. Please read the confidentiality and consent forms below before proceeding.

Confidentiality Statement

Data collected from the demographic form and the pre and post-test surveys will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of this online training program.

The data will be confidential and held in a secure environment. All the data used in the analyses will be aggregated; no personally identifying information will be used. Individual pre/post test results will not be shared with the province (the funder), any organization, or individual. Presentations or publications based on this data will be presented with key identifiers removed.

Consent Statement

I understand that by accessing the online curriculum, Responding to the Commonly Misunderstood Sequelae of Sexual Assault, I am agreeing that my responses can be used for research purposes. It is clear to me that all data will be aggregated (grouped together with all other responses) and that my personal information, including my email address, will remain confidential. I understand that I will not be identifiable in any presentation or publication that may result from this study.