OMG PIVC Study: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Why is the study important?

The study is designed to discover what is actually happening with PIVCs in clinical practice. Are research findings used to improve health care? Are we doing the best we can for our patients?

We believe the study will help people to evaluate their own practice, compare it to the research, benchmark with other hospitals, and discover ways to improve patient safety and healthcare.

This is the first global prevalence study of PIVCs, and it will open up new collaborative research opportunities in vascular access clinical practice.

What date is the study scheduled for?

The choice of date for the study can be decided by the individual organisation, depending on staffing, workload and other local issues. We suggest that each site choose a day in the second half of 2014 to complete the study. We will collect data until April 2015.

We recommend that a group of assessors (nurse educator, clinical nurse specialist, vascular access clinician, etc.) be educated about the study and the data collection tools. Each assessor can then assess the PIVCs on 2 or 3 wards/units, rather than a 2 or 3 staff trying to collect data for the whole hospital.

It might be more feasible for your site to collect data over a week, rather than a single day. This is fine.

What forms do we need to complete?

The **Site Information form** is filled in once per hospital.

The **Screening log** will be filled in on the day of data collection by each participating ward/unit.

The **Data Collection form** will be completed for every PIVC in situ on the ward/unit at time of data collection.

All of the study tools will be available for completion on paper or on-line.

A survey link will be emailed to you to complete the forms electronically.

If you choose to complete the study on paper, you can then enter the data via the survey link.

Alternatively, you can fax or scan and email the completed forms to omgstudy-group@griffith.edu.au or contact us for postage details.

How long will it take to assess each PIVC?

Feedback from the OMG pilot study indicated it took approximately 5 minutes to assess the first few PIVCs, but became quicker as the assessor became more experienced with the tools.

The tools have been modified since the pilot study and this will hopefully now be more streamlined.

Do we need Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) or Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for our site to participate in the study?

The study has been approved by the Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee (GU Ref No: NRS/34/13/HREC).

Approval on a site-specific basis is an individual matter. Many sites have not required site-specific ethics approval because this is an observational audit, rather than an intervention study. Other sites have requested approval. We can provide some assistance with obtaining ethical approval, if required.

Please note: Some peer-reviewed journals may request notification that the IRB has been informed of the study and have advised that IRB approval is not required.

Are there benefits for participating organisations?

There are certainly benefits for participating organisations. These include:

- Benchmarking opportunities with other organisations in your region or country
- Potential for identifying quality assurance concerns at your organisation, such as use of consumables (dressings, IV cannulas, etc.), number of redundant catheters, etc.
- Potential for developing targeted education programs to address areas of concern, such as non-compliance with recommended guidelines, IV dressing techniques, etc.
- Potential for publication of site-specific findings.

What will happen to our data?

Each hospital in the study will be de-identified and have a unique identifier. We will not share your data with other organisations. We will publish the results by country, not by hospital. Each participating site will be acknowledged as a contributor to the study, but individual hospital results will remain confidential. Any information you collect remains the property of your hospital.

All data will be stored securely at Griffith University Centre for Health Practice Innovation. Only the OMG study investigators will have access to the data. All stored data will be destroyed after 7 years, as per the Human Research Ethics Committee requirement.

Will we be benchmarked against similar organisations?

For best benchmarking with other hospitals in your region, it would be ideal if all local sites could complete on the same day or in the same week. This can be coordinated locally.

We will provide every participating organisation with a copy of its own results. You can use this information to benchmark your results with other hospitals in your local region or country.

Do we need to assess every PIVC?

The more data you are able to collect, the better will be your opportunities for benchmarking, but we do understand that for many reasons it may not be possible to assess every PIVC.

What about patients that cannot give verbal consent? (e.g., paediatrics, unconscious or sedated patients)

If the patient is not able to give informed verbal consent, please follow your institution's policy to determine if you can ask the patient's next-of-kin for consent.

Any patients who do not give consent will not have their PIVC assessed for the study.

What about incomplete data?

We understand that it may not be possible to obtain all the data on the form. If the data is not readily available (such as date and time of IV insertion), it is okay to ask the patient, if feasible.

For benchmarking purposes, more data is better, but realistically this may not be possible. This is fine.

Can we publish our own findings?

After the main study has been completed and results published in a peer-reviewed journal by the OMG PIVC study team, there will also be the opportunity to publish your site-specific findings. We ask that you acknowledge the OMG study team in any publications. An authorship agreement form is included in this study guide.

Are we permitted to see the results of the pilot study?

The OMG pilot study was completed at 14 sites in 12 countries during November 2013 until February 2014. This data will be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. No identifying information will be presented. The results will be published per country. We will advise when this publication becomes available.

For any further questions, please email us at omgstudy-group@griffith.edu.au