

# General Practitioners

## We need your help with our chronic low back pain study

### Clinical and educational utility of a computer-based checklist for management of chronic low back pain by general practitioners and final year medical students: The *PainChecker* Study

- Chronic low back pain is a challenging problem, particularly in the time-pressured environment of general practice
- Medical students have limited exposure to chronic pain management in medical school, and yet it is a major and complex part of every doctor's workload
- With this in mind, we developed a practical checklist-based computer application called *PainChecker* to assist with managing chronic low back pain in primary care, and as a learning tool for final year medical students
- This study is being led by Professor Eric Visser (Churack Chair of Chronic Pain Education and Research at the University of Notre Dame Australia) and Dr Luke Wheeler (Medical Practitioner and Masters in Physiotherapy)
- The study involves using the online *PainChecker* application for 30 days to manage new or current patients with chronic low back pain (e.g. as part of a Chronic Disease Management Plan, Items 721, 732) and then completing a 20-minute online survey about its features and usefulness. Students will also complete an online questionnaire before and after using *PainChecker*, as a learning tool
- If this project proves successful, we will roll out practical pain management applications for GPs and medical students for other chronic pain conditions – such as neck pain and whiplash, headaches, neuropathic pain, joint pain and myofascial pain.

Should you wish to participate in this important study or have any questions, please contact:

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