Medical Emergencies in Oral Health Settings

Attention: Oral health therapists and dental therapists in Queensland. You will be receiving information about this research project in the mail in the next two weeks. Please complete the survey in about 10 minutes and send back to CQUniversity as soon as possible. Your responses to this survey are very important....

Project Overview
Medical emergencies in oral health settings are uncommon but can be life-threatening for the patient. It is the dental practitioner’s responsibility to manage the situation in order to minimise morbidity and mortality. This project aims to identify the frequency of medical emergencies (fainting, shock, asthma attack, heart attack, etc.), the training and preparedness of dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists for a medical emergency, and an assessment of the medical equipment and medicines which are stored in an oral health setting in case an event occurs.

Participation Procedure
If you consent in participating in the survey, please sign the consent form and fill out the survey to the best of your ability. It will take a minimum of 10 minutes. Once completed, please insert the consent form and survey into the envelope provided. This envelope has been stamped and self-addressed to mail back the consent form and survey to the researchers.

Benefits and Risks
The findings from this research will be used to improve the training and preparedness of dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists to manage emergency situations in dental and oral health settings. This could be achieved by more targeted training and education of undergraduate dental therapists, dental hygienists and oral health therapists, and in continuing professional development (CPD) of registered dental practitioners in Australia.

A more standardised approach to medical emergency equipment and medicines which can be stored in dental and oral health settings could be adopted in policy documents with government departments and professional associations (such as the Australian Dental and Oral Health Therapist Association, the Dental Hygienists’ Association of Australia and the Australian Dental Association.) Ultimately, however, the main benefit of this research is the minimisation of morbidity and mortality for patients having a medical emergency in dental and oral health settings in Australia.

Ethics Approval
This research project has been granted approval by the CQUniversity’s Human Research Ethics Committee – approval number H14/07-166.

Questions/ Further Information
Principal Researcher: Associate Professor Leonie M. Short
E-mail: l.m.short@cqu.edu.au

Researcher: Mr Lemuel Lee
E-mail: Lemuel.Lee@live.com

Concerns / Complaints
Please contact CQUniversity’s Office of Research (Tel: 07 4923 2603; E-mail: ethics@cqu.edu.au; Mailing address: Building 32, CQUniversity, Rockhampton QLD 4702) should there be any concerns about the nature and/or conduct of this research project.