

## PARTICIPANT FACT SHEET – VETERANS

### VA Nurse Practitioners as Antibiotic Stewards: A Mixed-Methods Study Examining Prescribing and Perceptions VA Funded - 2019

Background: Antibiotic resistance is a threat to public health. Antibiotic resistance happens when bacteria can resist the effect of a drug and continue to grow, even when the drug is being taken. When this happens, the drug no longer works to treat the person's infection. Antibiotic resistance increases with increased antibiotic use. Sometimes, providers prescribe antibiotics when they are not necessary. Nurse practitioners are a type of provider who prescribes antibiotics. We would like to better understand the antibiotic prescribing habits of nurse practitioners in the VA system. For this project, we are looking at how NPs treat Veterans seeking care for general cold, sore throat and cough illness. This will lead to ways that NP can assist Veterans who are coming in with these symptoms, even if their illness cannot be treated with an antibiotic. We will evaluate the **Nurse Practitioner and Veteran/Patient role** in keeping our antibiotics effective and increase best practices.

Goals: 1) To describe NP antibiotic prescribing patterns for upper respiratory infections; and 2) To identify components of an intervention (based on nurse practitioner and Veteran perceptions and ideas) to ensure best practice for antibiotic prescribing.

Eligible Participants: Nurse Practitioners at Madison VA, and Veterans (patients) who use VA outpatient clinics for routine care. **This study is completely voluntary for both Nurse Practitioners and Veterans.**

Participant Duration:

**If you are a Veteran**, you will be involved in one focus group and will spend approximately 1 – 1.5 hours of time in focus group discussion. A focus group is defined as a small group of people (up to 10) assembled to participate in a guided discussion about a particular topic. The focus group will be coordinated by research staff and will be held at a convenient time and location for the entire group. **We will not audio record the focus groups; instead, researchers attending will take notes on primary themes.**

Benefits: No direct and immediate benefit to participants is anticipated. However, increasing knowledge about proper antibiotic use is critical to effectively prevent antibiotic resistant infections. This is a chance for you to provide your input to researchers about antibiotic use for the common cold, sore throat and cough illnesses.

Risks: We will conduct two focus groups of Veterans who are patients seen in the outpatient setting. During the focus groups, Veterans will discuss views and perceptions on the use of antibiotics. They will also discuss their perceptions on the patient role in proper antibiotic use. Participation in the focus groups poses a minimal risk to Veterans. This risk is the possibility that private information discussed during the group could be shared outside of the group. Protections are in place to minimize this risk.

#### **Compensation for Veterans**

If you are a Veteran participating in a focus group, you will be paid a \$150 stipend for your time and travel expense. This will be paid direct deposit, as deemed appropriate by the Madison VA. The direct deposit procedures will be explained by study personnel prior to you attending the focus group.