We are contacting you because we would like you to consider giving your consent to the publication of a case study involving information about your recent treatment.

Case reports are articles written about patients who have rare or unusual illnesses or where a treatments plan has an unexpected positive or negative outcome.

We have provided some brief information about case studies to help you to decide whether you wish to give consent. Please take some time to read the information provided and you may also like to discuss this further with the researchers or with friends or family.

**What is a Case Study?**

A medical case study report is an article that describes a particular patient's diagnosis and treatment plan. A case study report is written in a specific format and intended to be published (e.g., in a medical journal, thesis) or presented in forums such as attended by health care professionals or researchers.

Most of the cases chosen for medical case studies are of unusual diagnoses or include complications in treatment.

The purpose of publishing or presenting a case study is to inform the wider medical and research community of an unusual or unexpected finding or event, where doing so might change or improve future treatment or practice.

**Confidentiality and Privacy**

While the researchers will take every care to protect your privacy and will not publish personal information about you, because the events described in case reports are usually very rare, it is not possible to guarantee that your identity could not be guessed or discovered by someone reading the report.

**Patient Information**

Research ethics guidelines require that a patient who is the focus of a medical case study report must provide written consent. Many journals also have their own consent forms that must be completed and signed by the patient before the report is submitted

By signing the consent form (attached) you consent to the researcher/s and relevant research staff collecting and using personal information about you for the case study. Any information obtained in connection with this case report that can identify you will remain confidential. Your information will only be used for the purpose of reporting the case study and it will only be disclosed with your permission, except as required by law.

You can withdraw your consent at any time before the manuscript has been committed to publication, but thereafter *it will not be possible to withdraw your consent.*

If you would like further information concerning this project, please contact the following:

**Name of Clinician/Researcher**:

**Phone:** **Email:**

If you have any complaints or concerns about any aspect of the case study please contact the Barwon Health Consumer Liaison Officer (CLO) as per table below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Email** | clo@barwonhealth.org.au |
| **Phone** | (03) 4215 1251 |
| **Portal** | [**BH compliments and complaints online portal**](https://www.barwonhealth.org.au/contact/compliments-complaints?highlight=WyJjb21wbGFpbnRzIl0=) |

Or if you have any questions about being a participant, please contact the Barwon Health Research Development Unit (RDU) on (03) 4215 3374 or via email at RDU@barwonhealth.org.au.

**Consent**

The accompanying consent form should be signed by the patient, if he/she has decision-making capacity to do so; or

 The patient’s parent or legal guardian, or if the patient is under 18 years of age, the patient’s Senior Available Next of Kin.