Participant Information Sheet/ Consent Form

Title	*Development of evidence-based guidelines for the management of medical device alarms that aim to improve patient safety within Australian intensive care units*
Short Title	*Behaviours and strategies of alarm management by critical care nurses in the Australian context*
Project Number	*AU HREC 4944*
Project Sponsor	*Not applicable*
Principal Investigator	*Ms Vivienne Leigh*
Associate Investigator(s)	*A/Prof Lemuel Pelentsov* *Emeritus Prof Carol Grech* *A/Prof Allison Roderick*

Part A: Project Overview

1. What is the purpose of the research project?

   The aim of this research project is to understand current practice in medical device alarm management used in Level II and III Intensive Care Units (ICUs) across Australia. It is anticipated that a draft set of recommendations for the management of medical device alarms will evolve from this project.

2. Who is undertaking this project?

   This project is led by Ms Vivienne Leigh, a PhD candidate within Adelaide University, and a lecturer in postgraduate nursing. This online survey forms part of the research project and is based in Adelaide, South Australia.

3. Who is guiding and supervising this project?

   The project is co-supervised by Emeritus Prof Carol Grech, A/Prof Allison Roderick along with A/Prof Lemuel Pelentsov as principal PhD supervisor.

4. Is this project funded?

This research has not received any specific grants from funding agencies in the public, commercial or not-for-profit sectors.

5. Who has reviewed and approved this project and survey?

The ethical aspects of this research project have been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of Adelaide University HREC (AU 4944). This research is conducted in accordance with the Australian government research requirements, specified in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2025). This statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies.

Part B: Project Participation

6. What does participation in this survey involve?

This is an internet-based survey. Every effort will be made to ensure that responses are confidential, however the researcher cannot guarantee the confidentiality or anonymity of material transferred by email or the internet.

Participants will be asked to complete an internet-based survey which should take approx. 30 minutes of your time.

7. Can I withdraw?

Participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you do not have to. If you decide to take part and later change your mind, you are free to withdraw from the survey at any time by closing the web browser. However, once you submit your survey, we will be unable to remove your response as the survey is anonymous, and it will be impossible to identify your individual information. Your decision to take part or not to take part, or to take part and withdraw will not affect your relationship with the University or the people administering the survey.

8. What are the benefits of taking part in this survey and project?

You will receive no personal benefits from this research; however, participation may contribute to the development of recommendations in the management of medical device alarms in the Australian ICU context. Additional benefits may be through raising awareness in the importance of alarm management in the clinical setting.

9. What possible risks or disadvantages are there in taking part in this survey?

There have been no risks or disadvantages identified in your participation in this online survey.

10. What will happen to information about me?

By completing and submitting the survey, you are consenting to the research team collecting and using information about you for the research project. Any identifiable information collected from the survey will be de-identified by the chief investigator by assigning a code to the participant. Codes will be stored separate to any participant names on a password protected network on the secure the Adelaide University server that will only be accessible by the chief investigator. Any data collected as part of this project will be treated as confidential and securely stored.

11. What happens with the information collected from this survey?

It is anticipated that the results of this survey will be published and/or presented in a variety of forums. The aggregated data from this survey will be used to inform a final report which will make recommendations about clinical alarm management in ICU. The de-identified information from this survey will be included within the PhD candidate's thesis and associated publications. No identifying information will be used in any written work, and your responses will remain anonymous.

12. What happens at the end of the survey?

Once you have completed and submitted the survey, participants will be invited to participant in the next phase of this research project. The next phase involves participation in focus groups where participants are invited to talk about their experience in the management of medical device alarms in the critical care setting. The focus group sessions will be held via Microsoft Teams or Zoom. Prompt questions will be used to guide the discussion which should take approximately 60 minutes of your time. If you are interested in participation in the next phase, ensure that you tick the box and a Participant Information Sheet outlining all the details to this phase will be sent to you.

13. What happens when the research project ends?

The data developed or collected as part of the project will be stored on the Adelaide University storage infrastructure. On completion of the project the research data will be transferred to Adelaide University Research Data Storage and retained for five years as required by South Australian legislation before being permanently deleted.

Part C: Concerns, Complaints and Issues

14. Who do I contact if I have any concerns or something goes wrong?

If you want any further information concerning this project or if you have any problems which may be related to your involvement in the project, you can contact any of the following people:

Research contact person

Name	Vivienne Leigh
Position	PhD candidate
Telephone	+618 8302 7810 or 044 962 2731
Email	vivienne.leigh@adelaide.edu.au

Name	A/ Prof Lemuel Pelentsov
Position	PhD Principal Supervisor
Telephone	+618 8302 1038 or 040 021 2556
Email	lemuel.pelentsov@adelaide.edu.au

If you have any complaints about any aspect of the project, the way it is being conducted or any questions about being a research participant in general, please contact:

Reviewing HREC approving this research and HREC Executive Officer details

Reviewing HREC name	Adelaide University Human Research Ethics Committee
HREC Executive Officer	Human Ethics Officer
Telephone	+618 8302 6330
Email	hrec@adelaide.edu.au

15. Consent

By completing and submitting the survey, you are indicating that you have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet and give your consent to be involved in the research, indicating that you:

- Understand what you have read
- Consent to take part in the survey
- Consent to be involved in the research described
- Consent to the use of your de-identified information and survey responses as described