# Participant Information and Informed Consent

**Study Title: A Prospective, Multicentre Study of Low Dose Targeted Drug Delivery (TDD) for Chronic Back Pain Patients who have Failed Spinal Cord Stimulation.**

**Protocol Number: GRS2018-006**

**Principal Investigator: Dr Marc Russo**

**Location: Genesis Clinical Research Services**

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Suite 7, 20 Clarendon Street, Frankston VIC 3199

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**Berwick Pain Management**

St John of God Hospital

75 Kangan Drive, Berwick VIC 3806

**1 Invitation**

You are being invited to take part in a Clinical Study to investigate a potential treatment for chronic low back pain (low back pain of long duration). You have been selected for consideration because you have been diagnosed with chronic low back pain and you have not experienced an adequate therapeutic response to spinal cord stimulation (SCS) therapy. Because of this, the Study Doctor has recommended that you undergo therapy with a commercially available treatment. The therapy involves the use of a TGA approved and commercially available programmable drug infusion device (also called a drug pump). The Synchromed II pump is manufactured by a US company called Medtronic. With this study, we hope to learn more about the effectiveness of low-dose targeted drug delivery (TDD) therapy for chronic back pain patients who have not experienced an adequate therapeutic response to SCS. This study is investigating the use of TDD therapy with the Synchromed II drug pump (utilising the Control Workflow SM - a guided approach to low-dose TDD therapy) in order to define a subset of patients who respond to TDD and whom should be considered for TDD based on similarities in pain area, pain patterns and pain type.

Before you decide whether or not to take part in this study, it is important for you to understand why this research is being done and what it will involve. The study team will go through this information sheet with you and answer any questions you have. Please take the time to read the following information carefully and discuss it with others if you wish.

Let us know if there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information. Take the time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

If you decide that you want to take part in the research project, you will be asked to sign the consent section. By signing it, you are telling us that you:

* Understand what you have read
* Consent to taking part in the research project
* Consent to having the tests and treatments that are described
* Consent to the use of your personal and health information as described.

**2 What is the purpose of the study?**

You are being invited to participate in a data collection study to evaluate the safety and effectiveness of targeted low-dose drug delivery (TDD) therapy using a device called a programmable drug infusion system (the Synchromed II drug pump manufactured by Medtronic) in patients like you as per the clinic’s routine practice. The study is about the data collected on your experience with this device which may help to determine whether or not the device provides an effective and safe treatment option for patients who have not experienced an adequate therapeutic response to SCS therapy. The Synchromed II device is not investigational and will be provided to you as per your clinic’s routine and commercial practice. The device is approved by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) for the treatment of your type of pain. Consenting to be part of this study will enable your Study Doctor and associated researchers to monitor the device and your progress more closely, which is a part of routine clinical practice. Your participation in this study is absolutely voluntary. The expected length of your participation in this study is approximately 14 months. Approximately 20 participants from multiple study sites with a permanent Synchromed II device will be followed up.

Your Study Doctor and associated researcher will explain the Synchromed II device procedures to you in detail and you will be given a detailed manual that describes the system. You will also be shown a sample of the device parts. Your Study Doctor will show you how each part works and where it will be placed in your body. This research project has been designed to make sure the researchers interpret the results in a fair and appropriate way without bias.

**3 Why have I been invited?**

You have been invited to participate in the Clinical Study because you have been diagnosed with chronic low back pain, and all treatments, including SCS, that have been offered to you so far have not helped you. Therefore, the treatment proposed in this study may be of benefit to you.

**4 Who is organising and funding this study?**

Your Study Doctor and Genesis Research Network have received a grant from Medtronic to independently conduct the study. This grant is to cover some of the costs associated with conducting this research study, such as Ethics Committee fees, rights for the use of questionnaires, etc. The research team will not allow a conflict of interest to compromise their position or this research study.

**5 What is the treatment that is being studied?**

This study uses a device manufactured by the US company Medtronic: the Synchromed II programmable drug infusion system (Drug Pump). The treatment will involve the delivery of a targeted and continuous low dose of intrathecal (injection into the spinal canal) morphine sulphate (morphine) or hydromorphone using the device under the supervision of your Study Doctor to allow for clinical investigation of reported pain outcomes associated with the therapy. This allows us to assess what patients believe may be most effective in regards to the study therapy. If targeted drug delivery (TDD) therapy using the device is associated with effective pain relief, it is believed that this could provide pain relief to chronic back pain patients who have not benefited from SCS therapy and may represent an effective and safe rescue option these patients. This trial is testing the use of the TDD regime and not the actual implant for which you are intended to receive.

**6 Do I have to take part?**

Participation in the study is entirely voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you agree to take part in the study, you will be asked to sign an Informed Consent Form to confirm that you understand what is involved in taking part in this study. You are free to leave the study at any time and without giving a reason. If you withdraw from the study, unless you object, we will still keep records relating to the treatment given to you as this is valuable to the study. A decision to withdraw from the study at any time, or a decision not to take part, will not affect the quality of care you receive or your relationship with your Study Doctor or the clinic.

It is possible that after satisfying the eligibility requirements to be included in the study, you may decide that you do not wish to proceed with the study or implant. There is no obligation to proceed.

**7 What will happen to me if I take part?**

Before the study starts, you will be asked to sign this Consent Form. Once you have signed this form, you are enrolled in the study.

There may be reasons why you cannot participate in this study. Your Study Doctor will discuss these with you.

**Baseline, Screening and Enrolment – Part of Study**

You will be asked to complete a series of patient questionnaires to gather information on your condition and current level of pain, disability, previous treatments, including SCS history, and affected lifestyle metrics. Your Study Doctor may perform some physical examinations. Your medication use will be recorded, including current use of systemic opioids (if you are currently taking opioid medications). Your doctor may discuss proposed variations to your current opioid medication intake prior to implant for your welfare.

The Study Doctor’s staff will schedule you for implantation of the Synchromed II device.

This visit may take up to 1 hour.

**Surgical Implant - Part of Standard Care**

The Study Doctor will implant the permanent system following the clinic’s standard procedure. Your Study Doctor may prescribe pre-surgery antibiotics to help prevent infection and additional medications to help with after-surgery pain. The procedure may be performed with a combination of pain medication, sedation and anaesthesia to make sure that you are comfortable during the procedure. The procedure will involve placement of the Synchromed II pump in your lower abdomen. A catheter is placed in the spinal canal and is connected to the pump. The pump reservoir is filled with morphine (or hydromorphone) during this procedure. At the end of this procedure, no part of your device will be outside of your skin; it will be completely implanted. This implant procedure may take up to 2 hours.

Your Study Doctor, with the support of Medtronic personnel, will program the device to begin delivering a continuous dose of drug at a pre-set rate.

You will be discharged from the hospital and may go home the next day or soon after your implant procedure as per hospital procedure. Your Study Doctor may give you antibiotics to help avoid an infection and discuss any other medications for you to take. Prior to going home, you will be told how to care for your surgery wounds. Additional visits may be scheduled depending on how you are feeling.

Prior to your next clinic visit, if you are continuing to experience pain or are uncomfortable with the device, you are asked to contact your Study Doctor.

You will return to the clinic one month after your implant. This visit may take up to 1 hour.

**Follow-Up Visits - Part of Study**

At 1, 4, 6 and 12 months after receiving your permanent implant, you will return to the Study Doctor’s site for a visit. During these visits, you will be asked to complete a series of patient questionnaires to gather information on your condition and current level of pain, disability and affected lifestyle metrics. You will be asked some questions about how you would rate your changes since the beginning of the study and your satisfaction with the therapy. Your Study Doctor may perform some physical examinations. Your medication use will be recorded. You will be asked to tell the Study Doctor if you are experiencing any problems.

At the 12-month follow-up visit, if you are not having any problems, your study record will be closed and your participation in the study is complete. If you are having problems, we will follow you until you have recovered or have determined that your condition is stable.

**Other Tests, Visits and Phone Calls**

At any time during the study, if you experience pain, are not feeling well, or are having any problems, please contact your Study Doctor or research staff. If you discover significant changes in your overall health, they should be discussed with your Study Doctor.

You may be asked to come in to the Study Doctor’s clinic for an extra study visit(s) to allow the study team to investigate ways to give you better pain relief.

If needed, additional testing may also be done. An x-ray may be taken at any time during the study to check on the position of the pump.

Additionally, you may be contacted by telephone by study staff to see how you are doing.

You may be contacted directly by a representative of the device company (Medtronic) to see if you are having problems with the equipment and answer questions related to the use of the device.

All medically related matters should be discussed only with your Study Doctor or research staff. If you have any questions about your device or your pain relief, please contact your Study Doctor or research staff.

**8 Expenses and payments**

You will not be paid to participate in this study. The 12 months of follow-up consultations (including monitoring, programming, and any extra medical assessments performed as part of the study) will not incur a cost to you. All costs associated with your medical care (e.g.: drugs, device and procedures) will continue to be your responsibility. All reasonable travel expenses related to you attending the study visits will be reimbursed. You will be compensated $50 per study visit to contribute to your transport costs.

**9 What are the alternatives for participation in the study?**

If you choose not to participate in this Clinical Study, there may be other treatments available to you. Some of the other possible treatments include pain medications, commercial SCS devices, physiotherapy, chiropractic treatment, surgery, nerve block, counselling, massage, meditation, and some alternative medicine therapies. If you participate in this study, the only therapies for your back pain you will be permitted to use during the study will be those approved by your Study Doctor and required as per your participation in the study.

**10 What are other possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?**

The Medtronic Synchromed II System has received TGA approval for use in the treatment of chronic pain. In addition to the standard of care, you will need to undergo extra medical assessments and complete questionnaires at regular intervals as part of this study. There are no risks associated with completing these assessments and questionnaires. The devices will be used per the clinic’s standard routine and commercial practice and any possible risks will be explained by your Study Doctor or site staff.

The known risks associated with the implantation and use of a drug pump system are shown below:

* Drug pump catheter break or dislodgement (1-6%)
* Implant site effusion (5) %
* CSF leakage (1) %
* Implant site infection (1) %
* Implant site inflammation (1) %
* Wound dehiscence (1) %
* Muscular weakness (1) %
* Pump programming error (1) %
* Pump accidental overdose (1) %
* Drug withdrawal syndrome (1) %
* Pump pocket Implant site effusion (11) %
* Implant site infection (3) %
* Implant site inflammation (3) %
* Implant site pain (1) %
* Implant site swelling (1) %
* Scab (1) %
* Skin irritation (1) %
* Stitch abscess (1) %
* Anaesthetic complication (1) %
* Implant site inflammation (1) %
* Incision site complication (1) %
* Pain in extremity (1) %
* Post procedural vomiting (1) %
* Urinary retention (1) %
* Venepuncture site inflammation (1) %
* Vomiting (1) %

You will be required to undergo extra study assessments (additional to standard of care) associated with follow up visits.

Some participants may become distressed while answering quality of life questionnaires. **(Should this occur, clinical and psychological support will be offered to participants by both study staff and psychology support staff).**

You may require surgery (including revision, explant and replacement) as a result of any of the above risks.

You will receive a Medtronic Patient Manual. We will tell you if there is new information regarding the safety of the Medtronic Synchromed II Pump that we learn while you are participating in the study. You can then decide if you still want to be in the study.

You must tell the Study Doctor or study staff about all side effects or problems that you have. If you are not honest about your side effects or problems, it may not be safe for you to stay in the study.

**Pregnancy Clause:**

If female, it is preferable to confirm to the Study Doctor that, to the best of your knowledge, you are not pregnant on the date of the study. Any subsequent radiation received from fluoroscopy during pump implantation as part of your standard care may pose a risk.

**11 Ionising radiation**

This Clinical Study involves exposure to ionising radiation, which reflects standard care. You will have one fluoroscopy of your back at the permanent implant visit. A fluoroscopy is required for correct positioning of the pump and catheter in your body. This scan will expose you to a medically acceptable dose of radiation.

**12 What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

You have been invited to participate in this Clinical Study because your Study Doctor has determined that the Synchromed II Drug Pump System may be able to help reduce your pain. It is unknown whether or not you will benefit from participation in this Clinical Study. Your pain may improve, worsen or stay the same.

You have a chance to participate in a research study that may help others find a drug pump treatment that provides better pain relief for some types of pain. We are expecting that this study will help us to understand more in the area of programmable drug infusion systems for the treatment of chronic low back pain and will give us the opportunity to improve the therapy.

By participating in this study, you will also contribute to providing valuable information for medical science, which could lead to improved treatments for other people who have the same condition as you.

**13 Voluntary participation/right to refuse or withdraw**

There is no obligation for you to be involved in this study. If you do not participate, your normal treatment plan will be followed.

If you first agree to participate and then change your mind, you are free to withdraw your consent and discontinue your participation at any time. Your decision will not affect your ability to receive medical care for your condition and you will not lose any benefits to which you would otherwise be entitled.

If you do not experience any problems for the duration of the study, your participation in the study will be complete. If you are having problems, we will follow you until you have recovered or have determined that your condition is stable.

You may also be withdrawn from the study, and have the device taken out, without your consent for one or more of the following reasons:

* If your pain relief in the “trial phase” indicates that the therapy is not effective for you
* If your pain relief in the “permanent implant phase” indicates that the therapy is not effective for you
* If you do not follow the Study Doctor’s instructions
* If the Study Doctor decides that continuing your participation could be harmful to you
* If the study is stopped by the Study Doctor or Ethics Committee
* Other administrative reasons or unanticipated circumstances.

**14 Illness or injury**

If, as a result of being in this study, you become ill or are injured, please immediately contact your Study Doctor. They will give you all of the necessary information and treatment and will inform the device manufacturer.

**15 Compensation for injury**

If you are injured as a result of your participation in this trial, you have a legal right to seek compensation. If, as a result of your participation in this study, you become ill or get injured, immediately advise your Study Doctor of your condition. In the first instance, your Study Doctor will evaluate your condition and then discuss treatment with both you and your regular treating doctor.

Since you are participating in a non-sponsored trial, any question about compensation must initially be directed to the Study Doctor, who will advise their insurer to the matter. However, it would be prudent to seek independent legal advice before accepting any offer of monetary compensation.

**16 Termination of the study**

This study may be stopped for a variety of reasons. These may include unacceptable side effects, and unanticipated changes in the funding of the study.

**17 Investigator benefits**

As noted in section 4, your Study Doctor is not being remunerated to conduct this study. Your Study Doctor and Genesis Research Services have received a grant from Medtronic to independently conduct the study. This grant is to cover some of the costs associated with conducting this research study, such as Ethics Committee fees, rights for the use of questionnaires, etc. The research team will not allow a conflict of interest to compromise their position or this research study.

**18 What happens when the study is complete?**

When the Clinical Study is complete, you may continue to use the Medtronic Synchromed II Drug Pump system as needed.

**19 New information arising during the study**

During the study, new information about the risks and benefits of the study may become known to the researchers. If this occurs, you will be told about this new information. This new information may mean that you can no longer participate in this research. If this occurs, the person(s) supervising the research will stop your participation. In all cases, you will be offered all available care to suit your needs and medical condition.

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak with your Study Doctor, who will do their best to answer your questions.

**20 Will my participation in this study be kept confidential?**

Yes. All information about your participation in this study will be kept confidential. Your identity will be kept confidential at all times.

Your records relating to this study and any other information received will be kept strictly confidential. However, staff participating in your care and other agencies authorised by law may inspect the records related to the study.

In the event that you are admitted to hospital as a result of an adverse event resulting from this study, your primary care physician may require access to your study records. Your identity will not be revealed and your confidentiality will be protected in any reviews and reports on this study which may be published.

The data will be kept for the duration of the study and for an additional period of at least 15 years.

Data collected throughout the study may be presented at medical conferences or published in medical journals after the completion of the study. It will not be possible to identify you personally from any of this material.

A publicly-accessible description of this clinical trial will be available on <http://www.anzctr.org.au/> as required by the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007), section 3.3.12. This web site will not include information that can be used to identify you. At most, the web site will include a summary of the results. You can search this website at any time.

**21 Results of the study**

The results of this study will be communicated at Australian and International conferences and in peer-reviewed journals. The results will be communicated to participants via a patient letter and/or copy of conference posters.

**22 Consent**

Your Study Doctor is required to provide you with all information regarding the nature and purpose of the research study, risks/benefits and the possibility of alternative treatment and you should be given the opportunity to discuss these. It must be stated that you are free to withdraw at any time and that if you do not participate you will not suffer any prejudice.

**23 Who has reviewed the study?**

All research in Australia involving humans is reviewed by an independent group of people called a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC).

The Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee has reviewed and approved this study in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) incorporating all updates. This Statement has been developed to protect the interests of people who agree to participate in human research studies. Should you wish to discuss the study or view a copy of the Complaint procedure with someone not directly involved, particularly in relation to matters concerning policies, information or complaints about the conduct of the study or your rights as a participant, you may contact the Committee chair, Bellberry Human Research Ethics Committee 08 8361 3222.

**23 Advice and information**

If you have any further questions regarding this study, please do not hesitate to contact:

Your Study Doctor / Investigator: Dr\_\_\_\_ Tel Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Your Research Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Tel Number: (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The person you may need to contact will depend on the nature of your query.

If you want any further information concerning this study, or if you/the participant has any medical problems which may be related to involvement in the study (for example, any side effects), you can contact the principal Study Doctor on (02) 4985 1860 or any of the following people:

**Clinical contact person**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Email |  |

For matters relating to research at the site at which you/the participant is participating, the details of the local site complaints person are:

**Complaints contact person**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Position |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Email |  |

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

**HREC office contact**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Trina O'Donnell |
| Position | Operations Manager |
| Telephone | (08) 8361 3222 |
| Email | [Bellberry@bellberry.com.au](mailto:Bellberry@bellberry.com.au) |

**Participant Informed Consent Form**

**Study Title: A Prospective, Multicentre Study of Low Dose Targeted Drug Delivery (TDD) for Chronic Back Pain Patients who have Failed Spinal Cord Stimulation.**

**Protocol Number: GRS2018-006**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the undersigned hereby voluntarily consent to my involvement in the research project titled “A Prospective, Multicentre Study of Low Dose Targeted Drug Delivery (TDD) for Chronic Back Pain Patients who have Failed Spinal Cord Stimulation”. I acknowledge that the nature, purpose, risks and alternative treatments have been fully explained to my satisfaction by Dr \_\_\_\_\_. I have also been provided with an Information Sheet regarding the research.

* Although I understand that the purpose of this research study is to improve the quality of medical care, it has also been explained that my involvement may not be of any direct benefit to me.
* I have been given the opportunity to have a member of my family or another person present while the study is explained to me.
* I have been told that no information regarding my medical history will be divulged and the results of any tests involving me will not be published so as to reveal my identity.
* I understand that access will be required to my medical records for the purpose of this study as well as for quality assurance, auditing and in the event of a serious adverse event.
* I understand that if I become pregnant during the study I will be invited to consent to access to information regarding any pregnancy and its outcome.
* I understand that I am free to withdraw from the study at any stage without prejudice to future treatment. If I decide to withdraw from the study, I agree that the information collected about me up to the point when I withdraw may continue to be processed.
* I am 18 years of age or over.
* I consent to my GP being notified of my participation in this study and of any clinically relevant information noted by the Study Doctor in the conduct of the trial.
* I declare that all my questions have been answered to my satisfaction.
* I have read or have had read to me in my first language and I understand the Participant Information Sheet, version A, dated 3 October 2018.

Declaration by researcher\*: A verbal explanation of the research project, its procedures and risks has been given to the participant and I believe that the participant has understood that explanation.

**NAME OF PARTICIPANT**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF STUDY PARTICIPANT:** **DATE:**

**NAME OF INVESTIGATOR:**

**SIGNATURE OF INVESTIGATOR: DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_**