



PETRA

The SAHMRI PETRA Study.



What is PETRA?

PETRA — a study looking at preventing respiratory illnesses in aged care.

Respiratory viruses and residential aged care

Viruses, including those that cause the flu, colds and COVID-19, can infect the respiratory system. To reduce the spread of viruses we rely on vaccination, good hygiene and staying away from others when unwell.

What is the PETRA study?

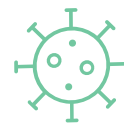
Colds and flu make people unwell every year. We now have the added concern of COVID-19. The PETRA study is looking to reduce the spread of these airborne viruses.

Ultraviolet-C light (UV-C), commonly used by hospitals and the food industry, can destroy viruses and bacteria circulating in the air. This study will investigate if existing technology can reduce virus spread in aged care homes.

What is UV-C? What are UV-C light appliances?

UV-C is emitted by the sun but does not enter the earth's atmosphere. Special lights generate UV-C which has been used for decades to disinfect air, water and surfaces. UV-C is commonly used in hospitals, the food industry, dental and medical clinics and even in offices. It can destroy viruses and bacteria in the air. The appliances look

like a wall mounted air-conditioner or a bar heater. They are commercially available and are used in clinical and commercial settings across Australia and the world.



ULTRAVIOLET
LIGHT APPLIANCE



Are the UV-C appliances safe?

The UV rays will be either confined to the top of the room near the ceiling or contained within the unit, allowing air to be safely treated when people are present. The appliances meet all Australian safety standards and will be installed and maintained by a certified contractor.



Where will the UV-C appliances be placed?

Appliances will be installed in communal areas only including hallways, dining and lounge rooms. These high-use areas are typical places where respiratory viruses spread. No appliances will be installed or used in private areas such as resident rooms or bathrooms.

What information will the study collect?

Researchers will monitor and collect information on the number of cases of respiratory illnesses (eg colds and flu) at the study

sites. This information is part of the usual and routine collection of information at your aged care home.

Information collected will be deidentified, removing names and room numbers. Details will include the type of virus, symptoms, age, gender and the general area within the site. Genetic information of viruses might also be analysed to understand how they spread.

Researchers from the study will also collect air and surface samples to look for respiratory viruses. When visiting, they will wear their SAHMRI identification and visitor stickers to be easily identifiable. All researchers will be subject to the same entry screening as all visitors, staff and contractors.

Why are our partners participating in the PETRA study?

Our partners participate in research projects as part of its commitment to continually improve service delivery in aged care. The PETRA study could reduce the number of cases of respiratory illnesses, which would benefit residents and

staff and will contribute to safety in aged care Australia wide.

What about vaccinations?

The PETRA study should not influence your decision about receiving vaccinations. Air purification could be an additional way to slow the spread of viruses in residential aged care.

More information

This project is led by Professor Geraint Rogers from SAHMRI.

This project has been approved by Bellberry Ltd Human Research Ethics Committee Ethics. Protocol 21PETRA is funded by the Australian Government - Medical Research Future Fund.



Scan the QR code to visit the PETRA webpage.
www.sahmri.org/petra

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