

KEY MESSAGES

Final Report: Promoting EARly intervention with men's use of violence in ReLationships through primary care (PEARL study)

March 2016

Kelsey Hegarty¹, Laura Tarzia¹, Kirsty Forsdike-Young¹, Rodney Vlasis², Michael Flood³, Gene Feder⁴, Cathy Humphreys¹

¹ The University of Melbourne; ² No to Violence; ³ University of Wollongong; ⁴ University of Bristol, U.K.

Policy context

The World Health Organization has identified the crucial role of an effective primary care system in prevention of domestic violence. However, there is very limited evidence to guide general practice response to male perpetrators. The Promoting EARly intervention with men's use of violence in ReLationships through primary care study (PEARL) sought to address current evidence gaps by developing and piloting a consumer-informed early intervention in primary care for men who use violence.

Key messages

- > An educational intervention through primary care is feasible and has the potential to help identify men who use violence and get them to the support they need to address their violent behaviour
- > Key challenges for intervening with men who use violence through primary care are the lack of confidence amongst GPs to identify and respond to male patients; and the perceived role of the GP
- > A technological intervention that can be used by both GPs and male patients collaboratively and individually may overcome some of the challenges raised by the PEARL study
- > **I-ENGAGE**, a model for working with men who use violence through primary care, was developed: **Identify** men who use violence through GP training; **Engage** men through primary care; **Access** interactive technological tools for both GPs and male patients to use in partnership or individually; **Greater** collaboration between primary care and local services; **Establish** ongoing support for GPs and their male patients through training and resources
- > To test this model further:
 - an online and mobile application will need to be developed and trialled with extensive expert and consumer input
 - funding is needed and will be sought through the NHMRC Partnerships Grant
 - ongoing support for primary care and from the community, including collaboration with local services, will need to be achieved to engage men through primary care

The research reported in this paper is a project of the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute, which is supported by a grant from the Australian Government Department of Health under the Primary Health Care Research, Evaluation and Development Strategy. The information and opinions contained in it do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Australian Government Department of Health.