

Call for Collaboration in OPTIMUS Feasibility Testing Study

Subject: Invitation to Collaborate in OPTIMUS Feasibility Testing Study on Monitoring Outcomes of Agonist Opioid Maintenance Treatment

Dear colleague,

I hope this message finds you well. I am reaching out to invite you and your team to participate in an exciting and impactful project: the OPTIMUS Feasibility Testing Study. This initiative aims to test the feasibility of the OPTIMUS outcomes questionnaire, specifically designed to assess outcomes of opioid agonist maintenance treatment (OMT).

We would be very happy to welcome you as a collaborator and coauthor of any scientific publications from it.

About the OPTIMUS Project:

OMT is an evidence-based intervention that is highly effective at reducing overdose deaths, infectious diseases and other health and social problems that affect people who use opioids. However, despite OMT being used since decades in many countries, there is still no international consensus on what are the key outcomes of OMT that should be monitored in patients, to assess if the treatment is successful or not, nor how to measure those key outcomes. In addition, published opioid treatment outcome studies hardly include those key public health outcomes, such as overdose, risk behaviours or infectious diseases status (Wiessing et al., 2018). The OPTIMUS study group aims to fill this double gap, by developing an internationally agreed consensus guidance to measure the outcomes of OMT that is centred around and prominently includes those key public health outcomes (Wiessing et al., 2025a).

We have developed guidance and an OMT outcomes questionnaire through a large multi-country Delphi consensus study in more than 30 countries, in collaboration with more than 800 OMT professionals and service users (Wiessing et al., 2025b). Our goal for the present study is to evaluate the feasibility of using the OPTIMUS outcomes questionnaire in real-world settings, gathering valuable data on interview duration, contextual variables, and user feedback.

Key Objectives of the Feasibility Study:

1. **Assess Interview Duration:** Determine the time required to complete the outcomes questionnaire, both overall and per section, and evaluate the impact and usefulness of optional questions.
2. **Understand Sample Characteristics:** Identify key characteristics of participating services and service users.
3. **Gather Feedback:** Collect experiences and suggestions from both service users and interviewers to refine the questionnaire.

Tasks and Deadline:

You are asked to conduct 10-20 interviews with service users, with the OPTIMUS outcomes questionnaire, by the end of March 2027. (some flexibility is possible)

Why Participate?

- **Contribute to Innovative Research:** Be part of a groundbreaking study that aims to improve OMT outcomes assessment.
- **Influence Future Guidelines:** Your feedback will directly influence the development of the OPTIMUS outcomes questionnaire.
- **Recognition:** Collaborators will be co-authors in the future publication of the study.

How to Get Involved:

1. **Read the Protocol:** Download the latest version of the study protocol [here](#), read it carefully and contact us if you are interested in collaborating.
2. **Prepare:** Follow all steps in the protocol (see section 7 'Preparation'). E.g. ensure you have the latest version of the outcomes questionnaire or update it as described. Do one or two test interviews with a colleague before starting 'for real'.
3. **Conduct Interviews with OMT service users:** Follow the instructions in the protocol and in the outcomes questionnaire, ensuring all privacy and ethical conditions are met and recording key data and feedback.
4. **Submit Results:** Fill out the online Results Reporting Form after each interview (see part B of the study protocol).

Important Links:

- [OPTIMUS Feasibility Testing Study Protocol](#)
- [OPTIMUS Guidance Part A \(Guidance\)](#)
- [OPTIMUS Guidance Part B \(Outcomes Questionnaire\)](#)

We welcome your participation and look forward to collaborating with you to enhance the assessment of opioid maintenance treatment outcomes. If you have any questions or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact us (lucas.wiessing@euda.europa.eu).

Thank you for considering this opportunity!

Best regards,
Lucas Wiessing



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References

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