



Royal Flying Doctor Service Clinical Manuals- Endorsed for Use in Clinical Practice Policy

1. Purpose

WA health system policy documents are the overarching policy documents that must be complied with by all WA health system staff. To complement these documents, WACHS has endorsed specific policies, guidelines and procedures covering a range of issues related to clinical practice. WA health system and WACHS policy documents are available via the HealthPoint Policies intranet site.

In addition, the WACHS endorses a number of relevant evidence based guidelines and resources from other WA Health Service Providers and organisations external to the WA health system for use in clinical practice.

2. Policy

WACHS endorses the use of the **Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Clinical Manuals** as evidence-based recommended practice for use by clinical staff.

It is RFDS preference that patient requiring medical retrieval have infusions prepared as per the guidelines, to save time at handover, reduce risk of errors and maintain patient safety.

WACHS Emergency Medicine Leadership Group (EMLG), Emergency Nursing Advisory Group and the WACHS Medication Safety Committee endorsed the use of the [RFDS Clinical Manual - Part 2: Medication Infusion Guidelines \(V10.1\)](#) in 2023.

RFDS Clinical Manuals Part 1, 3 & 4

RFDS - Clinical Manual - Part 1: Clinical Guidelines
RFDS - Clinical Manual - Part 3: Procedures
RFDS - Clinical Manual - Part 4: Standard Medication List } ★

★ Clinical Manual Parts 1,3 & 4 are currently unavailable whilst being updated and revised by RFDS Western Operations. Refer to other WACHS Clinical Policy Resources on the [WACHS Policy home page](#) or seek guidance from the [Acute Patient Transfer Coordination \(APTC\) Service](#) on **1800 951 211**.



External sources that are endorsed for use in WACHS clinical practice provide a standard for clinical governance and service delivery and provide a range of information and evidence-based practice to support best practice by all staff for country health patients and clients.

When applied, the information contained in these guidelines must take account of the context and scope of practice, level of service delivery and facility capacity.

While every reasonable effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in these guidelines, no guarantee can be given that the information is free from error or omission. Users are strongly recommended to confirm by way of independent sources, that the information contained within these guidelines and procedures is correct, especially drug doses that may change from time of publication.



ATTENTION

These guidelines do not indicate an exclusive course of action or serve as a definitive mode of patient care. Variations that take into account individual circumstances, clinical judgement, scope of professional practice and patient choice, may be appropriate dependent on the health care setting.

3. Roles and Responsibilities

WACHS Executive Directors of Medical and Nursing and Midwifery Services, and the Chief Operating Officer are responsible for acting as the principal endorsement authority for external organisations' clinical policy documents.

WACHS Area and Regional Medical, Nurse, Mental Health, Aged Care and/or Population Health Directors are responsible for participating in the review for appropriateness of external organisations' clinical policy and guideline documents for use by clinicians within the WACHS.

All WACHS clinicians are accountable for their own practice and are to provide care:

- within their registration status
- in accordance with the codes and guidelines approved by their relevant National Board supported by AHPRA
- within their scope of practice and competence
- within their prescribed responsibilities and duties as defined in their Job Description Form (JDF) and
- within the context of practice that they are operating.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

4.1 Monitoring

The Datix Clinical Incident Management System (Datix CIMS) is to be used to monitor and review trends, and investigate incidents as determined by individual regions. To assist with trending, use Tier 1: Medications and identify relevant Tier 2 and 3 categories. Include 'RFDS' in the free text description box.

4.2 Evaluation

This policy will be reviewed as required to determine effectiveness, relevance and currency. At a minimum this will occur every three years, facilitated by the policy review contact.

5. Compliance

EUCP's are designed to provide staff with evidence-based recommendations to support appropriate actions in specific settings and circumstances. In the clinical context, where a patient's management should vary from an endorsed WACHS policy, this variation and the clinical opinion as to reasons for variation must be documented in accordance with the [Documentation Clinical Practice Standard](#).

6. Document Summary

Coverage	WACHS-wide
Audience	Medical, nursing, midwifery and allied health staff.
Related WACHS Policy Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and Management of Interhospital Patient Transfers Policy • Inter-hospital Clinical Handover Form Procedure • Interhospital Patient Transfer of Mental Health Patients Guideline • Patient Assessment and Management in the Emergency Department Policy • Patient Assisted Travel Scheme Policy • Recognition and Response to Acute Deterioration (RRAD) in the Newborn Policy • Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration Policy • Recognising and Responding to Acute Deterioration Procedure
Other Related Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APTC Clinical Transfer Priority (Appendix D of Assessment and Management of Interhospital Patient Transfers Policy) • RFDS Clinical Manual Part 2: Drug Infusion Guidelines • Safe Transport and Transfer of Care of Country Mental Health Patients Flowchart
Related Forms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MR184 WACHS Interhospital Clinical Handover form • MR184C WACHS Interhospital Transfer Maternal Form • MR184P WACHS Interhospital Transfer Neonatal & Paediatric
Related Training Packages	Nil

7. Document Control

Version	Published date	Current from	Summary of changes
5.01	9 February 2024	26 April 2022	WACHS Pharmacy Services recently undertook a comprehensive review of the clinical guidance contained within the 2020 RFDS Guidelines, including calculation checks, and checking references to the literature, WACHS policy documents and other WA Health policy documents. WACHS Pharmacy Services provided feedback and recommendations to RFDS and this feedback has now been adopted into a new version by RFDS
5.02	14 February 2024	26 April 2022	Minor amendment – link to WACHS IHPT Site Flowchart replaced with link to Appendix D of Assessment and Management of Interhospital Patient Transfers Policy.

8. Approval

Policy approval	Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery Services
Co-approvers	Executive Director Clinical Excellence Executive Director Medical Services
Contact	WACHS Coordinator of Nursing
Business Unit	Nursing and Midwifery Services
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