



Government of Western Australia
WA Country Health Service

WACHS Human Research Ethics Committee

Summaries of Approved Projects

July to December 2016

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Project Summaries for WACHS HREC Approved Projects – January to June 2016

The material contained in this document is made available to assist researchers, institutions and the general public in searching for projects that have ethics approval from the WA Country Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee (WACHS HREC). It contains lay summaries for projects approved between July and December 2016.

Please refer to the end of this document for explanations of specific terminology used throughout this report.

Project Title	2016/19 – Safety of new oral anticoagulants in regional Western Australia compared with warfarin		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Jamie Bellinge		
Institution	WA Health (EMHS – Royal Perth Hospital)		
WACHS Region(s)	Goldfields, Great Southern, South West and Midwest		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	15 July 2016	Finish Date	15 July 2019
This is a quality improvement audit on the use of oral anticoagulation in regional WA via a retrospective assessment of patients admitted to Kalgoorlie Hospital, Bunbury Regional Hospital, Geraldton Hospital and Kalgoorlie Hospital during 2014 to 2016 with a primary diagnosis of atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism. This audit will primarily look at readmission rates in these patients and complications secondary to anticoagulation usage, as well as assessing the appropriateness of anticoagulation and determine which anticoagulants are being prescribed most often.			

Project Title	2016/22 – Audit of inter-hospital transfers for patients discharged from Busselton Health Campus Emergency Department 2010/11 – 2014/15		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Phil Chapman		
Institution	WA Health (WACHS - Busselton Hospital)		
WACHS Region(s)	South West		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	15 July 2016	Finish Date	15 July 2019
The project is a cross sectional audit looking at the frequency of inter-hospital transfers from Busselton Regional Hospital from 2010/11 to 2014/15. This will be completed via a retrospective analysis of medical records from Busselton Hospital Emergency Department with presentation and separations which will identify the frequencies of inter-hospital transfers. It is anticipated this study will show an increase in Busselton Emergency Department presentation and the number of inter-hospital transfers. This will provide baseline data for future audits and may help inform resource planning.			

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Project Title	2016/20 – Developing and Evaluating Patient Falls Risk Signage in WA Country Health Service – Wheatbelt		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Ms Elouise Hawkins		
Institution	WA Health (WACHS - Northam Hospital)		
WACHS Region(s)	Wheatbelt		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	25 July 2016	Finish Date	25 July 2019
<p>The relevance and effectiveness of patient falls risk signage has been questioned as part of regional patient falls risk management prevention strategies. Western Australian Country Health Service – Wheatbelt Patient Falls Focus Group proposed an investigation of evidence based tools and assessment of consumer feedback on patient falls risk signage. This project will use a combination of data collection tools to assess the efficacy of the project. Initial phases of the research will utilise feedback from an identified focus group to assist in the development of the signage to be used within the hospital setting. It is anticipated that the results of this study will provide guidance on risk strategies related to prevention and controlling falls in healthcare.</p>			

Project Title	2016/18 – Retrospective audit of the clinical presentation, management and outcomes of adults with skin and soft tissue infections requiring hospitalisation in the Kimberley region		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Kasper Willson		
Institution	WA Health (WACHS – Broome Hospital)		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Target Population	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples		
Start Date	10 August 2016	Finish Date	1 February 2017
<p>Infections of the skin and soft tissue are common problems encountered in clinical practice. This study is designed to inform clinicians about the types of patients who suffer from severe skin infections and how the antibiotics used affect outcomes. The study involves collection of data about how the patients are managed and the course of their illness. The outcome of the study will inform future health planning and allow clinicians to better identify patients who are at risk of severe illness and improve the use of antibiotics to improve overall management and care of skin infections in the Kimberley region. This will also help limit the developing resistance to antibiotics in the region.</p>			

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Project Title	2016/21 – What do Australian nurses practicing in rural and remote regions perceive to be the necessary leadership characteristics of senior management that will impact on job satisfaction and retention of staff?		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Caroline Nilson		
Institution	Murdoch University		
WACHS Region(s)	Pilbara		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	16 August 2016	Finish Date	16 August 2019
<p>Nurses are continuing to leave the public sector; the impact is particularly being felt in rural and remote regions. This study aims to address the factors that are contributing to the retention of nursing staff and job satisfaction and the wellbeing of nurses in more isolated regions. By identifying specific leadership characteristics that impact absenteeism, retention and job satisfaction, the organisation will be able to develop programs to support and educate leaders. It will also provide evidence to substantiate the impact this knowledge would have on the projected nursing shortage by keeping nurses in the workforce.</p>			

Project Title	2016/23 – Survey of call-taker introductions in the tertiary referral hospitals of Western Australia. Are current communication standards in keeping with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulations Agencies (AHPRA) code of conduct for medical practitioners?		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Jessica McGeough		
Institution	WA Health (WACHS – Broome Hospital)		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	17 August 2016	Finish Date	17 August 2019
<p>This study seeks to evaluate the current level of communication during telephone introductions between remote and tertiary hospitals and establish whether the current standard is in keeping with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) code of conduct for medical practitioners.</p>			

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Project Title	2016/24 – Acute appendicitis is less common in Australian Indigenous people?		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Marwan Idrees		
Institution	WA Health (SMHS - Fiona Stanley Hospital)		
WACHS Region(s)	Goldfields		
Target Population	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples		
Start Date	18 August 2016	Finish Date	18 August 2019
<p>A systematic review revealed no data studies into the incidence of appendicitis in indigenous population or comparing it with incidence of appendicitis in non-indigenous population. It is anecdotally indicated that 'indigenous people don't get appendicitis, or are less likely to get appendicitis'. This could possibly lead to delay in management of indigenous patients with acute appendicitis. This retrospective study will compare the incidence of appendicitis in indigenous and non-indigenous populations over eight years in Kalgoorlie Regional Hospital and will aim to verify or negate the statement. The study will assist in decision making for indigenous patients presenting with right iliac fossa pain with suspicion of appendicitis.</p>			

Project Title	2016/26 – Exploring the quality of anticoagulant prescribing in patients with atrial fibrillation at the Albany Health Campus, WA		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	A/Prof Luke Bereznicki		
Institution	University of Tasmania		
WACHS Region(s)	Great Southern		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	31 October 2016	Finish Date	31 October 2019
<p>The study is designed to explore the quality of anticoagulant prescribing in patients with atrial fibrillation at Albany Health Campus with the aim of providing perspective to the pattern of anticoagulant prescribing in patients with atrial fibrillation.</p> <p>Atrial fibrillation is associated with significant risk of thromboembolism to which stroke or myocardial infarction may result. The prevention or reduction of this involves the use of anticoagulants in the patients at risk. This study's objective is to assess the quality of anticoagulant prescribing in patients diagnosed with atrial fibrillation, and with the findings could inform the improvements needed in this area of disease prevention.</p>			

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Project Title	2016/27 – Rural regional emergency department and hospital-based emergency care facility profile project		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Andrew Gosbell		
Institution	Australasian College of Emergency Medicine		
WACHS Region(s)	All		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	10 November 2016	Finish Date	10 November 2019
<p>This project is an exploratory study and aims to profile the staffing, activity and available resources of both regional and rural Emergency Departments and Emergency Care Faculties throughout Australia. The finding from this project will provide a strategic policy and advocacy opportunity for the Australian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) and supporting organisations, in improving the understanding of the volume and types of emergency presentations and how rural and regional sites meet the demands of emergency care provision through staffing.</p>			

Project Title	2016/25 – An analysis of major trauma patients within the Kimberley and the care that they receive		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Matthew Fitzpatrick		
Institution	WA Health (WACHS – Broome Hospital)		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Target Population	No primary participant category		
Start Date	28 November 2016	Finish Date	28 November 2019
<p>This project will focus on prevention as well as improving the care provided to those who do survive to hospital. This research will outline the major risk factors associated with major trauma in the Kimberly as well offering an opportunity to accurately assess the performance of our medical teams.</p>			

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Project Title	2016/28 – Skin Health Situational Analysis to inform skin disease control programs for the Kimberley		
Co-ordinating Principal Investigator	Dr Asha Bowen		
Institution	Telethon Institute for Kids		
WACHS Region(s)	Kimberley		
Target Population	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples		
Start Date	6 December 2016	Finish Date	6 January 2020
<p>In remote Australian Aboriginal communities, skin infections (“scabies” and “impetigo”) are common. At any one time, 45% of children will have impetigo. If left untreated, skin infections may lead to more serious and potentially life threatening conditions, such as blood poisoning, bone infection, and complication of Group A Streptococcal (GAS) infection, including chronic kidney and possibly rheumatic heart disease (RHD). GAS infection and their complications also occur at among the highest rates in the world in Aboriginal people. Reducing skin infections and achieving skin integrity has been identified as a priority for communities and healthcare professionals in the Kimberley.</p> <p>This study will aim to document specific skin treatment, prevention, environmental health and health promotion services/practices related to skin health. This will also identify if gaps in the skin health activities exist and if so, what and where they are.</p>			

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